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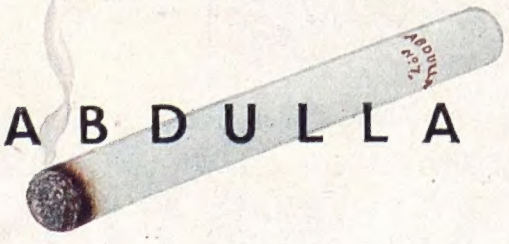

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THE SPHERE
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The Empire's Illustrated Weekly

KING GEORGE VI UNVEILS THE MEMORIAL TO KING GEORGE V—HIS MAJESTY AT THE BASE OF THE STATUE TO HIS LATE FATHER ON THE ABBEY LAWNS OPPOSITE THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT: The unveiling took place in the presence of Queen Mary, who is seen standing in the centre of the dais. The King described the statue by Sir William Reid Dick, R.A., as "a fine and worthy likeness"

The statue to the late King George V in London provides the centrepiece to a memorial distributed over the whole of the United Kingdom, as the greater part of the large sum subscribed in 1936 and 1937 was assigned by the Lord Mayor's Committee for the King George's Fields scheme, providing public playing-fields for youth in every part of the land. Last week chief attention was focused on this centrepiece, and the King's unveiling of Sir William Reid Dick's fine statue, portraying King George V in the uniform of a Field Marshal, wearing the Garter robes, and holding the Sword of State, was attended by Queen Mary and by many of those who served the King so faithfully during his reign. At the unveiling King George VI paid a moving tribute to his father. He then called forward old friends and servants of King George V and, with his mother, warmly greeted them. They included the Earl of Cromer, George V's Lord Chamberlain; Lord Wigram and Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, both his Private Secretaries. (See also page 142)

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A LONDON NEWSLETTER

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1

"THE BARRAGE OPENS"—VOICES OF THE EL ALAMEIN VETERANS ECHO IN THE ALBERT HALL ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT BATTLE—BERTHA WILMOT LEADING COMMUNITY SINGING AT THE REUNION PRESIDED OVER BY FIELD-MARSHAL VISCOUNT MONTGOMERY: 7,000 men, veterans of the Eighth Army and fellow African campaigners, thronged the Albert Hall for the reunion on October 23. The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Bevin, was Guest of Honour, and Lord Montgomery, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, read a message from the King. Celebrities entertained the men, and songs reminiscent of the Eighth Army were a feature of the programme, which was broadcast and televised. There was also a special edition of the film "Desert Victory"

The New Session.—

The new session of Parliament has begun. It will be a testing time for the new Administration, over which Mr. Attlee hopes to exercise a firmer control. If the business on hand at present seems less overloaded than in '45 and '46, it is heavy, and contentious enough. It means no time for Private Members' privileges and a deal of guillotining. The session will include a couple of Budgets, at least one vital industry's nationalisation; a measure of rating reform of very great importance and, I fear, holding nasty jars for rural ratepayers; a new criminal justice reform Bill, which may include abolition of the death penalty and will create many changes in the system and procedure of our courts of justice; a Bill to reform the Poor Law, which is timeous; and a Bill to give effect to Burma's independence, which I sincerely hope will not prove another premature enfranchisement. But there is much more which the present crisis may force into priority. The pegging of wages is an urgent question, on which all Sir Stafford's aims depend. It cannot be left in the air or solved by pious hopes. Mr. Isaacs will have a busy time explaining, and indeed formulating, his plans to control labour. If there are two measures which have really jolted this country, including the ranks of Government supporters, they are the Direction of Labour and the Basic Petrol Cut. I should say that thousands of people, who have complacently or patiently borne their new fetters and austerities, have suddenly discovered that their ancient liberties and their right to social justice have indeed been tampered with, if not sabotaged, in the last two years. I shall be surprised also if a major battle does not develop over the emasculation of the Home and other Fleets. What we have learned (among other things) in the past two depressing years is that the Party system does not work, is indeed a fearful danger, if the Government majority is overwhelming. The people begin to realise it and to feel anxious. And only the Second Chamber, shorn of its former powers, remains to delay for a time, if it dare, the recklessness and ruthlessness of those who have hitherto been the Premier's masters.

Capital Expenditure.—

The effect of the 200 millions cut in capital expenditure, details of which Sir Stafford has now given, will affect every sphere of national life. The promised schemes of the Ministries of Health, Education, Transport, War Office, Air Ministry, Post Office, all are to be postponed, limited, or scrapped, and only work nearly completed will be finished. That means an indefinite halt to or check on water schemes, school buildings, new roads, telephones, tunnels, bridges, Civil Service accommodation, civil airfields. The housing programme is greatly cut, and so is the supply of rolling-stock and buses. In short, it 's a halt to most of the development promised in 1945 as designed to make this country a country fit to live in in the modern age of full employment and adequate guaranteed pay with holidays for all. It would be illogical to quarrel with these halts and cancellations. The accent is on the word "promised." Many of us cried out against the recklessness of those promises in 1945, well knowing that a bankrupt cannot pull down his barns and build greater until he has received his discharge with honour. The cuts and cancellations are right. Our criticism is that they are two years overdue. The promises should never have been made, and none but men reckless of the consequences and ill-informed of the economic facts would have dared to make them. So there we are. As in 1748, so in 1948 (and I dare say 1958) we shall still draw our water supply from doubtful wells, still live with our mothers-in-law, still light our cottages with paraffin, still live on the distant prospect of a telephone and still enjoy "the most up-to-date and comprehensive national education and health services in the world," which, unfortunately, cannot be made to *work* . . . yet.

Lord Halifax's Meaning ?—

In the debate on the Address in the Lords, Lord Halifax let fall some remarks which interested me and left me guessing: "The Earl of Halifax said it was not at all surprising that some people should be searching round for means of pooling the best brains and the widest experience and the best counsel in our present needs, because on that depended the answer whether we were going to sink or swim in the next few years. Many would advocate the re-creation of a National Government. He did not believe that to be possible and he did not believe, past history and present circumstances being what they were, it was desirable. But did that exhaust the possibilities of finding some means of co-operation closer than at present? It would surely not be of negligible advantage to the Government to be able to draw upon the wisdom of other parties and it would not perhaps be without some advantage to the Opposition to be able to mould Government policy before it was finally stated. Last but by no means least, it would be of immense advantage to the country to receive a large measure of agreed direction." What did he mean? How would it work? Mr. Attlee would select (?) certain Opposition big-wigs (Mr. Churchill, Lord Samuel, Mr. Eden, and so on) and co-opt them to a "Committee of All the Talents" which would meet when the legislation of a new session (?), or of the week's agenda in Parliament (?) was being discussed, and this Committee would amicably thrash out and agree upon what legislation and business was essential for our crisis and what was to be rejected as redundant or party-biased? That seems to be the only possible meaning. But would it work, even if Mr. Attlee could be allowed by his "supporters" to swallow his pride and co-opt the Opposition?

The Second Chamber.—

No doubt at the time of the Parliament Bill there were Leftists who cried "You have scotched the snake, not killed it." But never yet has there been any but a negligible minority who desired to abolish the Second Chamber and rely on Single-Chamber government. The frightful risks of such a constitution have been underlined by the good work done in the Lords in the last two hectic years of hasty legislation. The Lords have proved themselves a revising body highly skilled and non-party. The country owes them a debt of gratitude. It is at this juncture, when co-operation and unity are preached by Ministers as absolutely essential, that Mr. Attlee has succumbed to his left-wingers and his strategists to introduce a measure altering the Constitution and sharply contentious and dividing. If the Bill becomes law, he will, before the end of this Parliament, be enabled to nationalise iron and steel within a period of twelve months. If it does not, and the crisis remains to solve, he will be able to go to the country at the next General Election with a red-herring issue: "Down with the obstructing Peers," which may cover and avert criticism of the abject failures of his administration. It is not surprising that sober journals and sober men call this decision mid-summer madness or political trickery of the basest kind. To reform the Upper House is a reasonable and desirable object for quieter, safer times. The difficulty has always been to find a formula agreeable to all parties and capable of interesting the country. But to lop its truncated powers at this moment of all moments, with the Second Chamber's admirable record over the last two years fresh in memory, is worse than a crime. It is a blunder and a damnable hypocrisy in one who preaches unity and "first things first."

Morrison Discovers a Truth.—

No doubt Mr. Morrison knows his business. A clever and experienced party leader, he is now a leader in the re-formed Government, and his immediate duty in the ship is to *deal with the passengers*, not as a luxury-cruise purser does (or did), with soup and cocktails, but rather, as the mutineer captain did, with bludgeons and planks. The passengers, drones, spivs, etc., must all take a turn in the rigging or walk the plank. The passengers—many of them—for two years have begged and prayed to be *allowed* to work, unfettered by restraints. They have also insistently pointed out to the captain and his mates that the course they were setting would inevitably put the ship on a lee-shore among the reefs. And it did. And now Mr. Morrison has discovered a "simple truth," which he is at pains to drive into your thick head and mine: *viz.*, that "the State, in the last resort, means you and me." Yet his thick head could not absorb the same simple truth when we tried to hammer it in *ad nauseam* in 1945 and 1946, in another form. We told him the simple truth that the State in any resort had no treasure of its own to fling about in extravagant ventures. Its riches were nothing more than the money which we could earn by our labours or which could be wrung out of us by taxation. And those riches had been reduced by war to a pittance.

Mr. Duff Cooper.—

It was only the other day—less than twenty years ago—that someone labelled Mr Duff Cooper "the last of the Tories." He has been our Ambassador in Paris for more than three years, during most of which time a Socialist Government ruled in England. I fancy the Leftists expected, if not demanded, a change of Ambassador. But Mr Bevin was not to be hustled into general sackings, and he has proved right in the case of Mr. Duff Cooper, who has represented this country in Paris during years of peculiar difficulty, demanding tact and sympathy of the highest order, and has given general satisfaction on both sides of the Channel. The truth is, of course, that party politics never should govern the choice of an Ambassador, even to-day when he is much more at the beck and call of the Foreign Secretary than formerly.

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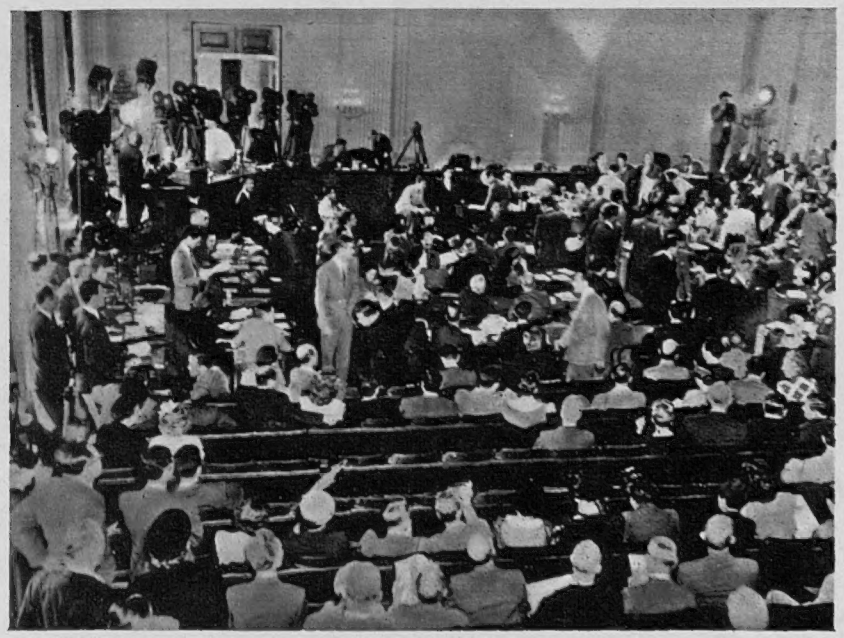
THE FIRST WITNESS IS SWORN IN AMID THE WHIRR OF MOVIE CAMERAS: Mr. H. A. Smith (standing, extreme left) with hand upraised as he faced Representative J. Parnell Thomas (standing, right centre) at the opening of the first session of the United States House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee. Opening the investigation, Mr. Parnell Thomas declared: "There is no question there are Communists in Hollywood. What the Committee wants to know is the extent of their infiltration into the film industry"

THREE MEN WHO DOMINATED THE PROCEEDINGS: Mr. Jack Warner, Vice-President of Warners; Paul McNutt, counsel for the Hollywood producers; and Mr. Louis B. Mayer, President of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Mr. Warner declared that he had sacked six studio writers for un-American leanings. Both Warner and Mayer urged legislation to outlaw Communism

UPROAR IN WASHINGTON

Congress Investigates "Red" Activities in Hollywood

Washington enjoyed itself hugely only a month or two ago when a committee set about probing the mysteries of wartime contracting, revealing how bevies of beauties played their part in the placing of orders for aircraft, and week-end parties rounded off the deals. Now Washington is again in uproar, and this time over the investigation into the alleged Communism of Hollywood's film industry. Chaplin, of course, heads the list of so-called Reds. Director Sam Wood declared that Communists had tried to infiltrate into the Screen Directors' Guild, denouncing film-writers as the most dangerous group in the industry. A group of Hollywood stars, headed by Paulette Goddard, Chaplin's ex-wife, cabled the Committee demanding that the hearing be quashed as an unlawful attempt to smear the film industry, but the hit of the show was "man about town" Adolphe Menjou, who, perfectly poised and chain-smoking throughout his evidence, revealed that he had been a student of Marx ever since World War I, and declared "Hollywood is a hotbed of un-American, anti-capitalistic activities"



INFORMALITY AND STORMY INTERRUPTIONS WERE THE KEYNOTES AT THE WASHINGTON WITCH-HUNT: These two pictures were taken at the opening of the investigation, which was just about as stormy as a Democratic or Republican Convention and even more colourful by reason of the array of Hollywood personalities who took the witness stand. On the second day Adolphe Menjou's gibes at Chaplin put the gathering in high good humour. The only gun Mr. Chaplin has ever heard go off, he declared, is a studio pop-gun. Menjou, immaculate as ever, was mobbed by girls as he left the committee rooms

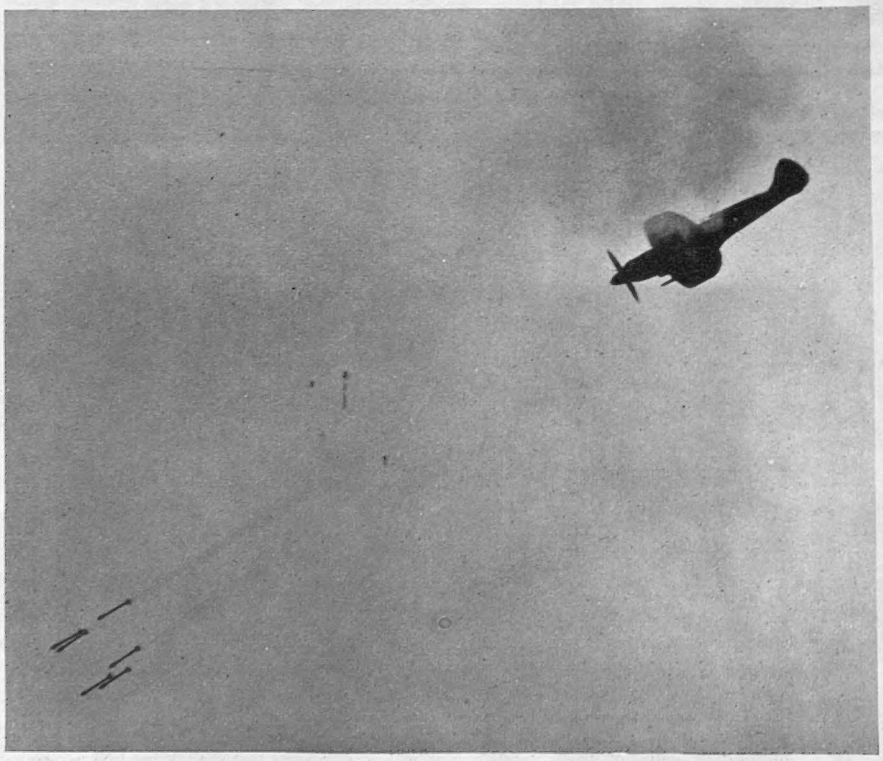
b

THE HELICOPTER
(1) AS LIGHTHOUSE RELIEVER
(2) AS ARTILLERY SPOTTER

THE SOLUTION TO AN AGE-OLD PROBLEM—HOW TO RELIEVE THE STRANDED LIGHT-HOUSE-KEEPER: A helicopter hovering above Dungeness Lighthouse when picking up, by means of a wire fitted with stirrups, a man who had taken station in the lantern gallery. The experiment worked perfectly and, during the winter months, when some lighthouses round Britain's coasts are completely cut off for long periods, may provide the solution to the thorny question of reliefs

A WESTLAND SIKORSKY HOVERS ABOVE DUNGENESS LIGHT-HOUSE: A few moments later the man was drawn within the fuselage and the helicopter flew off, demonstrating that the relief of marooned lighthouse-keepers is a practical possibility

The helicopter as a specialised aircraft has come to stay. Its vast potentialities are only now being explored, however. It has already proved its worth in air-sea rescue work with the United States Coastguards; it was responsible for the speedy evacuation of the Gander survivors; it has played its part in crop-spraying; and in the hills of California it has even fought forest fires. Last week officials of Trinity House, coastguards and members of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution saw a Westland Sikorsky helicopter carry out a series of flights over Dungeness Lighthouse and over a lifeboat at sea. The helicopter, despite a breeze blowing from the east, gave a brilliant demonstration of manœuvrability, lifting a man on and off the lighthouse and in and out of the boat



A DIVE-ROCKET ATTACK BY AN R.A.F. TEMPEST: Six rockets are seen hurtling towards their target a moment after being fired from the steeply-diving machine. This picture was taken during a demonstration of "strafing," skip-bombing, dive-bombing, rocket fighting and strategic bombing given last week by the Offensive Support Wing and Transport Support Wing of the School of Land-Air Warfare

PICKING UP A MAN FROM DUNGENESS LIFEBOAT: The Westland Sikorsky helicopter demonstrates its ability to hover over the craft and to pick up the man on its special stirrup attachment, despite a 10-m.p.h. wind

THE EYES OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY—A HELICOPTER DESCENDING AT LARKHILL AFTER ACTING AS A SPOTTER FOR SELF-PROPELLED 25-POUNDERS : The fact that it can operate from the park instead of using an airstrip some miles behind the lines is itself a prime factor in its favour, while its ability to hover renders the work of the spotting officer considerably easier than in the normal spotting aircraft

A PLAN FOR THREE-WAY CO-OPERATION : The helicopter observation post in action above its mobile gun-battery at Larkhill. Within split seconds of the ranging gun firing a shell the o.p. can wireless a correction to the command post, the correction can be interpreted in terms of range table and map, and the ranging gun can then fire again. Once on target the whole unit goes to gunfire, and the target duly disappears

THE HOVERING EYE WORKS WITH A BATTERY OF 25-POUNDERS : This picture, taken at Larkhill, is intended to show the method of co-operation and therefore the helicopter is only flying at 100 ft. or so above ground-level. In actuality the helicopter would be high enough for the o.p. officer to see the fall of shot and report back to the command post. The mobile command post is seen half-sheltered by the trees and just behind the gunnery position officer. It is just possible to see the plotting table laid out in the command post, and on this an officer works out the new quadrant elevation and bearing based on the o.p.'s report. This scheme of R.A. training with helicopters has been arranged in conjunction with the Ministry of Supply and with the R.A.F., the R.A. pilots undergoing two years' instruction with the Air O.P. Squadron, R.A.F., before returning to their normal Army duties

PREPARING DEMOCRACY FOR THE SLAUGHTER

The Pattern and Technique of Soviet Success in Eastern Europe

By FERDINAND TUOHY

FAR from showing any sign of abating, interest in Soviet Russia and her ways mounts in every stratum of society. Particularly is it mounting among the 70 or 80 per cent. of citizens who in most if not all European countries are strongly averse (to put it mildly) to the methods employed by the Communists. In some countries the "anti" figure is as high as 95 per cent. or even higher.

All of these people feel in their bones that it is time, and past time, to probe to the bottom the means by which Russian Communism suppressed their fellows and plans to suppress themselves.

It is not a question of the goals so far attained by Stalin in the once-sovereign States which he has to all intents and purposes absorbed. Several of these goals, and the principal ones, have been cherished and striven for by other political parties. One could instance: nationalisation, State planning, redistribution of land, industrialisation, development of backward areas, State-controlled foreign trade, and a closer watch on foreign capital investment.

A powerful aid to the spread of Communism is the *sans-gêne* with which it arrogates to itself the exclusive credit for initiating and realising social changes which are deeply written into the times with or without Communism.

Not several of the goals thus far revealed, but the methods by which they have been reached, constitute the grim parting of the ways, because these methods are for very many indeed the negation of human liberty and, as such, cast shadows before of things to come which would be even more unbearable, if that were possible.

To understand what the other side is doing and how it is going about it, is the first essential for fighting back. The present year in Eastern Europe has revealed so much of Soviet technique in fastening the dictatorship of a fanatical crusade upon the bulk of the community, that the latter will henceforth have only itself to blame if it doesn't bind itself together in time.

The discovery has been made that the Moscow Politburo (which, of course, governs everything) lays down seven conditions which Communist leaders in other countries must satisfy before the word can be given them to go ahead and bid for the final seizure of power. As we go along, it will be interesting to apply these conditions to countries round and about us and to ourselves. The pattern concludes with the actual seizure of power, the steps by which this has to be done.

Here, then, are the preliminary conditions. It is hard to resist calling them the Seven Pillars of Mobocracy:

THE LEADER OF THE GREEK GUERILLAS: Communist General Markos has a force under his command estimated at 17,000. He assumed command on the return to Athens of the late King George II of the Hellenes, and since then he has fought a tenacious campaign, cordoning off a vast area of Macedonia and imposing on the people at least a measure of Communist rule

First there must be a Communist Minister of the Interior so as to secure control of the police, both on view and secret. This is the equivalent of our Home Secretary, but continental Ministers of the Interior almost always have more deep-reaching power. In difficult cases a crypto-Communist, a politician figuring as a Socialist, will be groomed for the post. He will bloom in his right colours later and gradually.

Secondly, there must be a Communist Minister of Justice, or at the least a fully reliable fellow-traveller requires to be installed in supreme charge of the courts of law. I hazard that in our case the nearest is the Attorney-General, although the Lord Chancellor is the head. The lawyer the Soviet wants must be prepared to run the "People's Courts" and secure death sentences against men and women who have in their time done far more to bring down repressive régimes and tyranny than the hard-faced fanatics who sit in judgment over them.

The charges preferred against these liberals and democrats who will not stomach the "new democracies" range from "enemies of the people" and "conspiring to overthrow the democratic régime" to "spying for certain foreign Powers" and "Fascist sympathiser." Perhaps the soul of Nikola Petkov will go marching on, as that of Ferrer did at Montjuich thirty-eight years ago.

Thirdly, there must be a Communist or an obedient soldier as Minister of War or, failing that, as Chief of the General Staff. The man who has the chief say with the armed forces has to be politically reliable, that's the essential, and it doesn't matter if he takes office with the public thinking him a Socialist or anything else anti-Communist. This is the growing day of false colours as the bulk of the citizenry slowly awakens to what is being put over on it, and by its awakening renders things less easy for the Communists.

Fourth condition is that the Cabinet must be composed of Communists and other politicians ready to do what they are told; if not, force them to do it. The power to enforce must be guaranteed to Moscow in advance. Here we see probably the main reason why Thorez didn't try to seize power when he had five Communists in important Government posts: he had no hope of forcing Bidault and others to do as they were told.

The Politburo's ideal for a recalcitrant Cabinet is the *Coup Vishinsky à la Roumain* —when that bitter-robed jurist picked the Bucharest Government and compelled Michael to sign on the kingly line, no matter how America and Britain protested it to be an Allied matter. Into the waste-paper basket with their protests, all the lot of them!

In point of fact, these regular Anglo-American protests, being predestined for the basket, serve chiefly to give the Communists an added feeling of their importance and hold. Bold denouncings on the air would be the better way for their reaching the rest of the world as well as the Kremlin.

Fifthly, there must be a Parliament with a Communist-controlled majority. The one country, so far, where this seems to have been achieved fairly legally is Czechoslovakia. The other cases have been wangled, grossly so in Poland, Rumania and Hungary. Fraudulent elections in Rumania reached an all-high: although the Opposition polled 70 per cent. of the votes, they were rewarded by only 35 seats. The Communists romped home with 369 seats. In Hungary tens of thousands more people voted—Communist—than were actually alive. The Communists laughed about it. Great fun, hitting the huge, unwieldy Opposition for six!

The sixth "must" is that non-Communist parties shall be frightened to hold public meetings any more. They must be so intimidated that they only meet in small, out-of-the-way places, if at all. Any attempt to hold a meeting in public to hear campaign speeches must be broken up amid uncurbed violence exercised by Communists called together in mass for the occasion. This gives an impression of tremendous, embracing power being used on behalf of the populace.

Seventhly, a censorship of the Press under Communist orders. There is a preliminary stage towards this in the form of a ban on criticism of the Soviet Union and Soviet policies. Steep enough, and it obtains in every country behind the Iron Curtain.

A pre-view of the Communist Press, such as we have, shows that in its continent-wide application it would all be taken out of the same drawer. Drably monotonous, the very format and typographical make-up almost identical in country after country. Under the world-wide revolution, one newspaper: the Kremlin Parrot.

Well, these are the conditions which Thorez and Togliatti and Pollitt and their confrères in the West must report to Moscow as having been fulfilled before they can expect the green light from that quarter. For, avoided at all costs must be a Communist attempt and failure to seize the reins, which would stand out altogether too harshly from the uninterrupted run of success in Eastern and even Central Europe. Once the green light does come to be shown, there follows immediately the second or combat stage of Communist performance, and here, again, a fixed formula has to be adhered to step by step—five steps in all to final realisation.

First step—charge the Opposition with planning civil war, with angling for foreign military intervention, and with sabotaging the economic and general recovery effort. Keep repeating this so frequently and with such finality in the newspapers and from the platform that it becomes an accepted fact with the uninstructed, undiscerning multitude. Evidence is not necessary, the reiterated Goebbels blare doing duty instead. Just now the most strident blare is of "warmongers," and we lately heard Pollitt parroting it—incidentally, with the most distressing delivery I've heard in many a day.

BULGARS AND YUGOSLAVS HOLD A JOINT CELEBRATION ON THEIR COMMON FRONTIER: They are carrying banners bearing the names of Stalin, Tito and Dimitrov. The event typifies Gestapo-maintained unity lying beyond the Iron Curtain

Second step—close down the opposing Press. This must not be done in Parliament, because there are still Opposition members, and they could make things sticky. It must be done either by decree or by some such vehicle as the Labour Front speaking directly to the printers. This explains why Shinwell's closing order to the Press last February evoked such a justifiable "never again." He was showing part of the Moscow chassis, consciously or not.

Third step—the time has come for arrests. Big and small, by the hundred or the thousand. There's no need to worry about *habeas corpus*, and you needn't even publish specific charges. Prisoners can be kept in prison for months without being allowed to see a lawyer. They can be told the charge against them on the eve of their trial. "Opposition to Communist control" suffices. With that anything can be proved in a tongue-tied community. Arrest and trial are easy work for men in control of police, courts and army.

THE CHURCH-VERSUS-STATE CONTEST IN YUGOSLAVIA: Father Stepano Cek testifying in the Pazin County Court, where he was charged recently with preventing Yugoslav partisans from entering his church to act as god-fathers to children being confirmed. He is said to have done this during the days of the German occupation

Left Wing parties which have rejected Communism provide the first victims in the merciless striking-down of political opponents. For them the tumbril rolls as readily as for a Churchill, if not more readily.

Fourth step—remove the main Opposition party from the scene. Its leaders are under lock and key and none dare make a counter-move. Invest the ban with a semblance of legality by acting through Parliament. A small, hamstrung Party will have been kept around for show purposes, and its existence will lend the "democratic" touch.

Fifth step—digest gains while the hangings go on. The job is done. Although some think a third stage lies ahead and that it will take the form of imposing one-party rule and a Soviet economy. Only Yugoslavia has gone the whole hog so far.

The MOUNTAIN of MUD

Like an Engulfing Lava Stream it Threatens the Todmorden-Burnley Railway Line

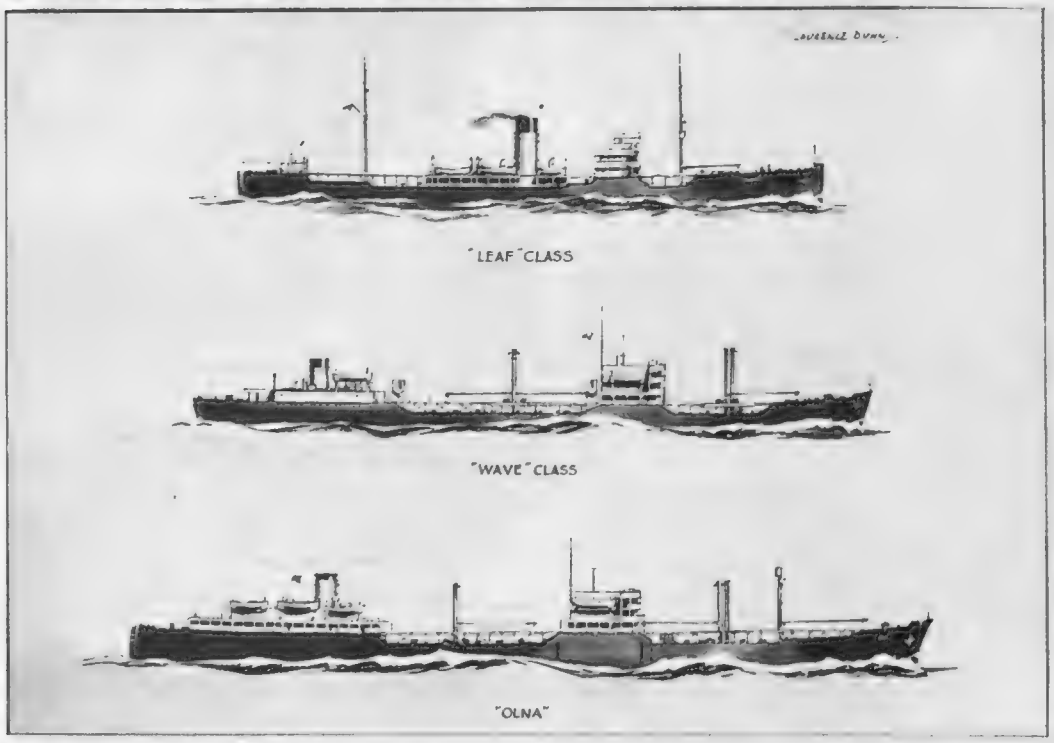
THE BATTLE IN PROGRESS AGAINST THE ADVANCING MOUNTAIN OF MUD: This mud, flowing from the open-cast coal workings at the brow of the hill, cut across the main road between the Lancashire towns of Todmorden and Burnley and came to a halt just short of the railway line, where a brick wall temporarily arrested its progress. The road itself was engulfed, and Lancashire County Council employees, working with a bulldozer, were engaged throughout one night on emergency operations to clear a way for traffic. The village where the inundation took place is known as Cliviger

AFTER THE ROAD HAD BEEN CLEARED IN ALL-NIGHT OPERATIONS: Looking down the hill to the Todmorden-Burnley road, showing the moving mass of mud on both sides of the highway after bulldozers had temporarily opened the way for traffic. It will be seen that the mud is already beginning to pile up by the railway wall in the distance

IN THE PATH OF THE MAIN ADVANCE: Cottagers at Cliviger watching the slow approach of the mud descending from the open-cast coal workings on the mountainside above the village

Industrial Britain must have open-cast coal to supplement her deep-mined coal during the years of crisis, but the price that agricultural Britain is having to pay for the needs of industry is rapidly passing the bounds of computation. The damage to farmland at Wentworth Woodhouse is already well known, and in other instances there have been cases of inexpert soil replacement after open-cast coal operations. Now comes news from Cliviger, on the Todmorden-Burnley road, Lancashire, of a vast stream of mud which is slithering down the mountainside as a result of open-cast coal workings near the brow of the hill. Lancashire County Council employees were recently kept hard at work stemming the stream of mud, and with further rains it is expected that the problem will increase. It seemed highly possible at one time that the railway would be engulfed, and only a brick wall temporarily saved the day. Work on the open-cast mine has been stopped

LAURENCE DUNN



ROYAL NAVAL TANKER DEVELOPMENT : The well-known Leaf class of tanker, built in 1917 for service with the Fleet and given what was then the very high speed of 14 knots, is coming to the end of its naval career. The twenty ships of the Wave class, all built 1944-46, now form the backbone of our naval tanker fleet. They are far larger than the Leaf class, having a cargo capacity of over 11,000 tons, and are single-screw turbine-driven ships with a speed of 15 knots. Thirteen of them were originally built as merchant ships, with Empire names, and it is only comparatively recently that they have been transferred to Admiralty ownership. Our largest naval tanker is the 17-knot turbo-electric ship *Olna*, built in 1945 by Swan, Hunter. She has a deadweight capacity of no less than 17,520 tons

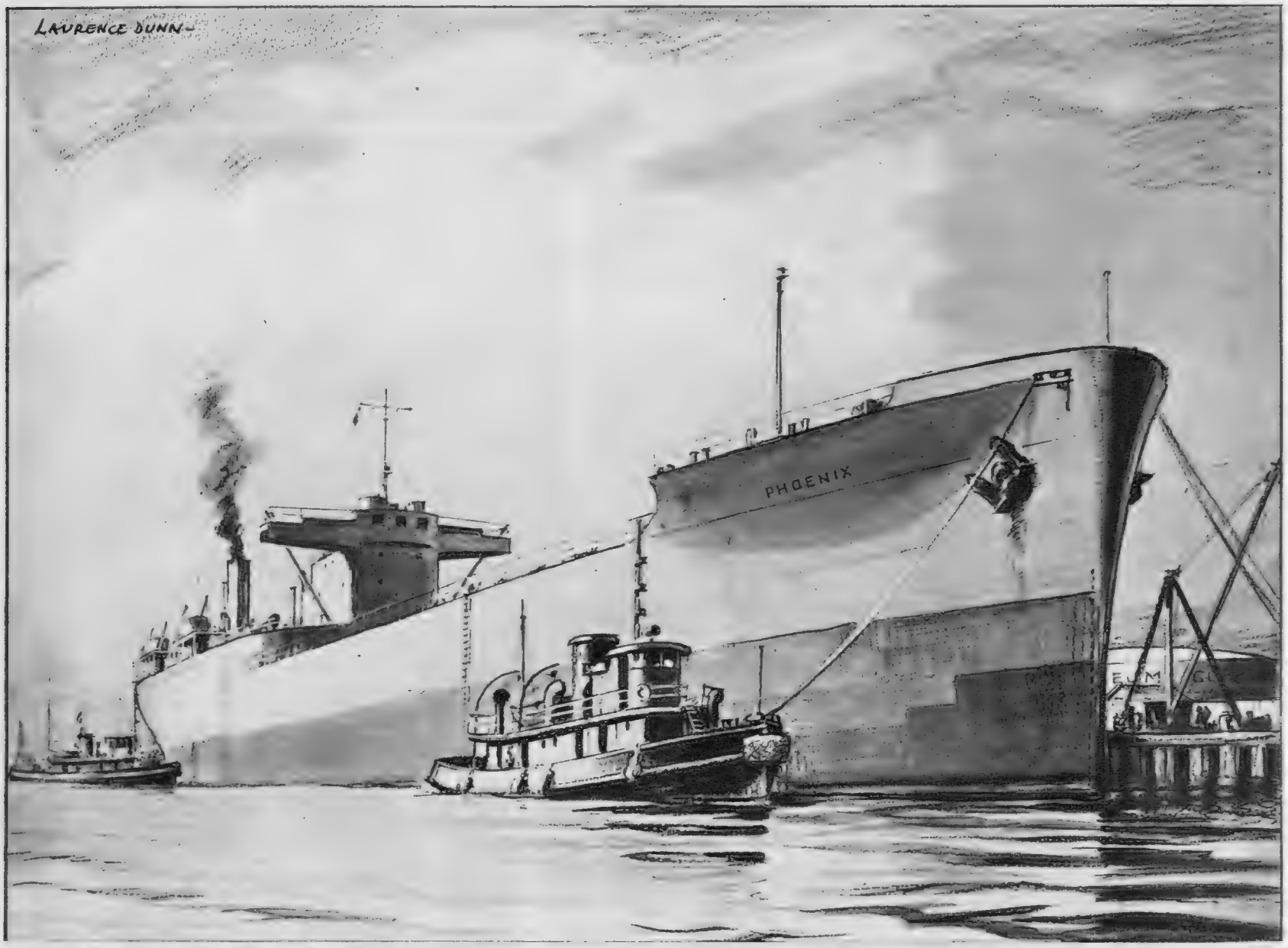
AMERICA'S 10,000-TON TANKER : A T.2 vessel, for thirty of which Britain has recently tendered. So far about fifteen have actually been transferred to the Red Ensign. There are large numbers of these ships laid up, and Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd, Petroleum Minister from 1939 to 1945, has suggested that the Government should have chartered 100 of these to ease the tanker situation, which is acute on this side of the Atlantic. The long fore and aft stiffener which has been fitted to these ships, which are otherwise all welded, can clearly be seen on the side of the hull, extending aft from the foremast. This overcomes the structural weakness which has shown up in a few units of this type, causing some concern

SEMI-IDLE TANKER FLEETS

WHICH MIGHT BE THE MEANS OF BRINGING BRITAIN'S BASIC PETROL

Drawings by Laurence Dunn

Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd, Petroleum Minister from 1939 to 1945, has put forward the idea that 100 of the idle American tankers might be employed to ship to Britain her basic petrol needs. At the moment Britain's tankers are employed at full capacity, and, although some of the American ships have been brought in to help, Mr. Lloyd claims that they are quite inadequate to the needs of the British service. Surely England and America can find some way of ending a position where we have plenty of petroleum to move and they have tankers that they do not use, and are quickly rusting away, declares the ex-Minister. Except in the latter contention, it is probable that Mr. Lloyd is quite correct, but it is known that the American tankers are being well looked after during their idleness, and could quickly be brought into action. On these pages details are given of the tanker situation both in Britain and America, with particular reference to some of the new giants, like the *Phœnix*, which are now making their appearance on the Atlantic



THE 23,600-TON "PHŒNIX"—A GIANT AMONG AMERICAN TANKERS, WHICH IS SHORTLY TO BE JOINED BY A 30,000-TON BIG-SISTER SHIP: The "Phœnix" is equipped to carry 9,000,000 gallons of oil, which amounts to 217,000 barrels

The average size of tankers is steadily increasing. In Britain, up to 1939 the usual-size vessels owned by the large oil companies were those known as the Three Twelves, which could carry 12,000 tons at 12 knots on a consumption of 12 tons of oil per day. Most of our war-built tankers were of this type. The standard T.2-class tankers, of which America built over 500, were larger and faster, being of 16,900 tons deadweight and 15 knots speed. Latterly a number of Norwegian owners have ordered tankers ranging in size from 20,000 to 24,000 tons deadweight. The three-year-old American oil tanker *Phœnix*, of the National Bulk Carriers Inc., New York, is of 23,600 tons deadweight. Her capacity of 217,000 barrels, corresponding to 9,000,000 gallons of oil, makes her the largest of her type yet built. Of all-welded construction, she has an overall length of 556 ft. by 80 ft. beam by 40 ft. depth. High-pressure steam turbines and water-tube boilers give her a speed of 17 knots in fair weather. Her owners have now ordered a larger ship of 30,000 tons

AMERICA'S IDLE TANKER TONNAGE: The United States Maritime Commission has eight anchorages, such as this in the James River, for the laying-up of its Reserve Fleet. It costs about 4,000 dollars (£1,000) a year to keep each of the surplus ships in good order. Instead of being allowed to rust away, they are well looked after and each ship is specially "treated" to fit her for a period of idleness. First all fire hazards are removed. Then kitchen equipment, dishes, electrical goods, tools, furniture and bedding are removed for re-use or resale. The remaining equipment is sprayed with oil compound to stop rusting. Compressed-air pipes link ship to shore, and periodically the air power is used to turn the propellers and stop the machinery from clogging. Fire hoses are carried from ship to ship and fireboats are kept near by. Each anchorage is near a shipyard

FOREIGN NEWS IN PICTURES

A "Sphere" Survey of Events on Three Continents

TWO DE GAULLES EMERGE FROM THE FRENCH ELECTIONS: One is General Charles de Gaulle (*left*), leader of the new Rightist movement, the Rally of the French People, and the other is his brother, M. Pierre de Gaulle (*right*). Pierre de Gaulle was a candidate in the 7th Arrondisement of Paris, and as a result of his success and the success of the Rally throughout Paris, he is to be the next Mayor of the capital. The elections were solely Municipal, having no direct bearing whatsoever upon national affairs, but as a result of the sweeping victories in the great cities, including "Red" Marseilles, General de Gaulle now re-emerges as a political figure of the first importance. The General (very obligingly) states that he has no intention of seizing power by unconstitutional means. It seems evident, however, that by June 1948, when National Parliamentary elections take place, he will be bidding for the Premiership in a straight fight with the Communists. General de Gaulle's strength is derived from the fact that he is the first figure who has of recent years proved capable of uniting the "Rightist" parties

THE PEOPLE OF THE SAAR GO TO THE POLLS: A girl registering her vote in the city of Saarbrucken. The election was for fifty members for the Constituent Assembly, and indirectly it will decide whether the small but rich coal area is to remain part of Germany or become a state united economically with France. In Saarbrucken 92 per cent. voted for the parties advocating economic union with France. At the elections in 1935, 95 per cent. voted for union with Germany

THE START OF THE RANGOON MURDER TRIAL: Four of the accused in the dock at the court-house of Insein Gaol, where they are charged by the Public Prosecutor with the political assassinations of last summer. They are alleged to be the murderers of General Aung San and his colleagues, having invaded the Council Chamber and mowed their victims down with automatics. Sein and Aung, the two men on the right, are said to have done the shooting. U Saw, a former Premier of Burma, is the principal accused. He has engaged an English counsel

BELIEVED TO BE THE VILLAIN OF THE PIECE: U Saw, former Premier of Burma, and leader of Burma's Lovers of the Nation Party, in the dock as he faced conspiracy-to-murder charges in Rangoon. His plot to overthrow the Government by wiping out the Chief Ministers very nearly succeeded

MAX INTRATOR APPEARS IN COURT: Handcuffed to a gendarme, one of the most publicised figures in post-war Europe leaves the Palais de Justice after appearing in private before M. Pieri, an examining magistrate. Apart from evidence of identity given at the time of arrest, this was Intrator's first appearance in court. Eventually he will face a series of charges, but it is understood at the time of writing that these have not as yet been fully prepared owing to the complexity of his cheque-cashing activities

ITALIAN COLLABORATIONISTS ON TRIAL IN ROME: Left to right are Prince Junio Valerio Borghese, Giudo del Giudice and Gino del Bianco. Prince Borghese, the forty-one-year-old descendant of Pope Paul V, earned Mussolini's highest military decorations for his work as a "human torpedo" in midget submarine attacks on Allied warships at Gibraltar and Alexandria. Now, with sixteen co-defendants, he has been arraigned in a Rome court to defend charges of collaboration with the Nazis. He is accused of commanding a naval organisation under Mussolini's puppet republic after the Italian armistice. The Borghese family has had many notable representatives. Camillo Borghese (1775-1832) served with the French Army, and married Napoleon I's sister, Pauline Bonaparte

ADMIRAL NIMITZ BECOMES CHIEF BE-KA-NA-GE, AND PERFORMS A TRIBAL DANCE: The U.S. Chief of Naval Operations is made an honorary chief of the Ottawa Indian Tribe of Michigan. In Washington, last month, Admiral Chester Nimitz donned a new kind of war paint, when he was received into the Tribe. Seen on the left of the photograph, he indulged energetically in a tribal dance and quite obviously enjoyed himself immensely. On the right is Chief Pi-Pi-Qua of Harbor Springs, Michigan—otherwise Fred Ettawageshik

MARGARET TRUMAN ON A BARNSTORMING TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES: The daughter of President Truman taking a bow at the end of her concert recital at Pittsburg, where she sang before a large and distinguished gathering. Ever since her radio debut in Chicago, Miss Truman has had a flood of offers for concert appearances, and she attracts crowds in every city. Her recent appearance at the Hollywood Bowl was a particular success from the financial angle. Miss Truman's voice has been quietly praised by critics, although it is said to be rather lacking in compass

EXCAVATING A FOURTEENTH-CENTURY PUEBLO VILLAGE: University students at work at Point of Pines, Eastern Arizona, where they have found stone fire-pits, mealing bins, pottery vessels and hand-tools of the ancient dwellers in this area, who lived four centuries and more before the European settlement of Western America

A WEDDING IN AN AIR-LINER: Two Swedish residents of Rome are married beyond the three-mile limit by a Swedish pastor. Arla Ljunggren and Ebbe Cornelie were married by Pastor Gosta Hagelin, of Rome, in an air-liner for the very practical reason that to have done so on Italian soil would have necessitated considerable delay in obtaining the required documents. So they simply chartered a plane from Swedish Airlines and flew out to sea beyond the three-mile limit for the ceremony. They are living in Italy in order to study music and are to sing with the Rome Opera Company during the winter season

FROM A BURIAL-CHAMBER IN AN ARIZONA VILLAGE: Students examining finds made at Point of Pines, Eastern Arizona. The University of Arizona Archæological Field School held its second post-war summer session at Point of Pines this year, high on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. Students from the University of Arizona and the Eastern Schools of Columbia, Tufts and Harvard participated. Under the direction of Dr. Emil W. Haury, director of the Arizona State Museum and head of the University's anthropology department, excavation on fourteenth-century Pueblo dwellings and twelfth-century pit houses was carried out in the territory where the now peaceful Apaches make their home. Work done by students gaining practice in the fields is expected to further the study of Man's history in the south-west and aid in discovering the reason for the mass exodus of the prehistoric dwellers

THE UNVEILING OF THE KING GEORGE V STATUE—KING GEORGE VI STANDING AT THE BASE OF THE MEMORIAL TO HIS LATE FATHER AFTER CONDUCTING THE UNVEILING: The memorial stands on a lawn of Westminster Abbey facing the Houses of Parliament. The Queen, with Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, accompanied the King, and in Old Palace Yard they were joined by Queen Mary, whose presence lent added poignancy to the ceremony

KING GEORGE V LOOKS OUT UPON WESTMINSTER—TWO VIEWS OF THE STATUE DESIGNED BY SIR WILLIAM REID DICK FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL SETTING BY SIR GILES GILBERT SCOTT: The pedestal is perfectly plain, without any features to divert the eye from the flowing robes which give such dignity to the figure. In an earlier design, which aroused much public criticism and was later rejected, an ornate Gothic canopy dwarfed the sculptured figure

In his speech at the unveiling of the statue the King declared: "Throughout his reign my father served the Constitution with an unswerving loyalty. It is fitting that his statue should stand here, in the heart of London, between the Abbey where he was crowned and the Houses of Parliament where the business of the State was conducted in his name, and where, by the Statute of Westminster, the Crown became the golden circle within which all the free Dominions of the British Commonwealth were united. Moreover, he had something of his own to add to the great tradition of constitutional monarchy that he had inherited. He made himself the personal representative of all his people in a fuller sense than any king or queen who had gone before him. He loved his country with entire devotion and he had no thought but for the care of his people. All who knew my father will bear witness that he had in full measure those qualities of our race which have carried us triumphantly through past difficulties and will, under God's providence, enable us to overcome those which confront us now"

The King and Queen and Princess Elizabeth DRIVE TO THE STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

THE PRESENCE OF THE HEIRESS-PRESUMPTIVE LENT ADDED INTEREST TO THE STATE OPENING: Princess Elizabeth was cheered enthusiastically by the great crowds that lined the route as she drove from Buckingham Palace to Westminster to attend for the first time officially the opening of Parliament. The glass coach, in which the Princess rode with her Lady-in-Waiting, Mrs. Andrew Elphinstone, followed directly behind that of the King and Queen. The bells of the Abbey contributed a note of welcome as the procession passed down Whitehall before entering the precincts of Westminster

THE KING AND QUEEN RODE IN QUEEN VICTORIA'S IRISH COACH: Their Majesties driving through London en route to Westminster, where the King opened the third session of the present Parliament. In front and behind the Royal coaches rode the Sovereign's escort. The Irish coach, so named because it was acquired during a visit to Ireland by Queen Victoria, has large windows and the crowd was able to obtain an excellent view of their Majesties

DRIVING THROUGH THE MISTS OF AN OCTOBER DAY—THE IRISH COACH, DRAWN BY FOUR OF THE WINDSOR GREYS AND ACCOMPANIED BY AN ESCORT OF CAVALRY, RETURNING TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE AFTER PASSING ALONG THE MALL FROM WESTMINSTER: From an early hour crowds began to line the route. Metropolitan Police and military bands played at various points from the Mall to Westminster. The occasion lacked the rich splendour of tradition, but no amount of austerity could rob it of its interest. The presence of the Princess was especially popular

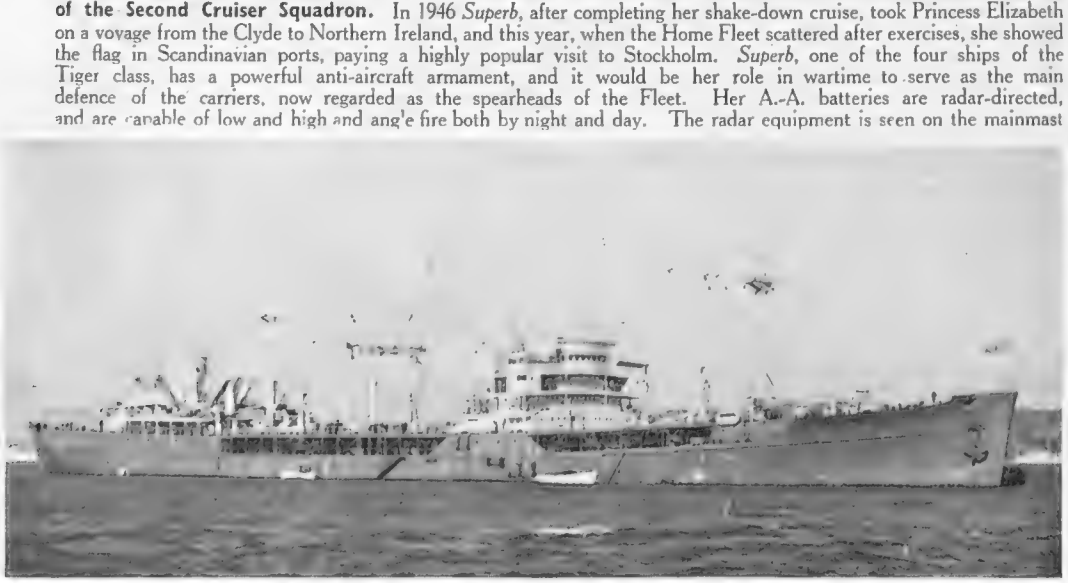
SETTING A FASHION IN NAVAL SMOKE-STACKS: Looking forward towards the superstructure of H.M.S. "Scorpion," the new Weapon-class destroyer, which has just been commissioned and takes her place in the Sixth Destroyer Flotilla of the Home Fleet. "Scorpion" has a strange funnel arrangement, the fore-funnel being a long, slender and inconspicuous stack-pipe rising inside the trellis mast amidships. The aft-funnel is the vertical smoke-stack seen in the foreground

H.M.S. "SCORPION" RIDES AT ANCHOR OFF PORTLAND—THE NEW NAVAL SIL SECOND DESTROYER OF THE WEAPON CLASS AND FLOTILLA LEADER: The forward

THE NEW NAVAL SILHOUETTE

H.M.S. "Scorpion," One of the Four Weapon-Class Destroyers, has Several Unusual Features

FLAGSHIP OF THE DRASTICALLY-CUT NEW HOME FLEET—THE 8,000-TON CRUISER "SUPERB": Of the five vessels to remain in full commission in home waters, H.M.S. "Superb" is the largest and only cruiser; the four destroyers are "Agincourt," "Aisne," "Dunkirk" and "Jutland." Laid down in 1942, "Superb" was completed in 1945 and was at the time of the recent announcement flagship of the Second Cruiser Squadron. In 1946 *Superb*, after completing her shake-down cruise, took Princess Elizabeth on a voyage from the Clyde to Northern Ireland, and this year, when the Home Fleet scattered after exercises, she showed the flag in Scandinavian ports, paying a highly popular visit to Stockholm. *Superb*, one of the four ships of the Tiger class, has a powerful anti-aircraft armament, and it would be her role in wartime to serve as the main defence of the carriers, now regarded as the spearheads of the Fleet. Her A.-A. batteries are radar-directed, and are capable of low and high and angle fire both by night and day. The radar equipment is seen on the mainmast



A GERMAN RAIDER IS TAKEN OVER BY THE ROYAL NAVY: Sister-ship of the "Altmark," the notorious German prison-ship, the "Nordmark," an ex-supply ship of the German Navy, hunted on more than one occasion during the war, has now been taken over by the Royal Navy and renamed H.M.S. "Bulawayo." She will be used to supply ships at sea. She will be under Captain K. A. Short, D.S.O.

THE "LITTLE SHIPS" IN WESTMINSTER—NAVAL CRAFT S CITY'S NAVY WEEK IN AID OF KING GEORGE'S FUND FOR Westminster Pier after her arrival from Chatham to t Minesweeper M.L.217 and the Survey Ship M.L.585, ing occupied by pleasure steamers: During the week the Mayor George V whose statue was unveiled outside the Houses of Par to see the types of vessels which, during the war, helped to keep in size of the fleets are sharing the increasing duties of the larger approximately £200,000 this year to continue to assist needy officers

NAVAL SILHOUETTE AS REPRESENTED BY THIS VESSEL OF THE SIXTH DESTROYER FLOTILLA WHICH HAS JUST BEEN COMMISSIONED AND HAS BEEN JOINED BY H.M.S. "BATTLEAXE," e forvard smoke-stack is inconspicuous within the lattice framework. The aft-mast is slender and placed well aft. On the aft-funnel are the radio direction-finding antennæ

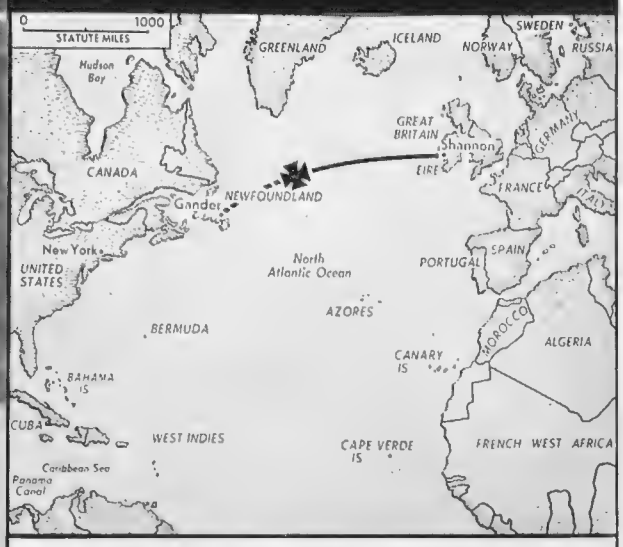
Battleships, battle-cruisers and carriers, if each or any of them continue to be built in this atom-bombing, missile-hurling age, will inevitably undergo vast changes in design. That is one reason why new warship construction is more than half halted among the major powers. Britain has continued with naval building on a small scale, however, and the new Weapon class of destroyer is of outstanding interest by reason of her original silhouette. The idea of having a smoke-stack within the mainmast is no new one, as witness THE SPHERE of October 11 showing a veteran German auxiliary schooner similarly equipped. The rather slender smoke-stack, placed well aft, tends to detract from the powerful appearance of this type

CRAFT SAIL UP THE THAMES AND BECOME A FEATURE OF WESTMINSTER FUND FOR SAILORS: *Above*—The Survey Ship M.L.585 going alongside am to take part in the celebrations. *On right*—The two ships, the 85, being alongside the pier, which in the summer months is usually the Mayor of Westminster appealed for the fund which takes its name from King ses of Parliament during the course of the celebrations. The public were able ed to keep open the shipping lanes of this country, and now with the reduction the larger ships in defence of Imperial interests. King George's Fund will need edy officers and men of the Royal Navy the Merchant Service and their dependants

MID-ATLANTIC RESCUE

How Sixty-nine Men, Women and Children were Saved from the "Bermuda Sky Queen" and Taken to the Safety of the Weather Ship "Bibb"

THE CRASH-LANDING IN MID-ATLANTIC: The Boeing flying-boat *Bermuda Sky Queen*, forced down through fuel shortage on a flight from Shannon to Botwood, Newfoundland, wallows in rough seas on the Atlantic. This picture was taken from a westbound Constellation which circled for an hour over the *Bermuda Sky Queen*



WHERE THE "BERMUDA SKY QUEEN" MADE HER FORCED DESCENT: A cross marks the spot, but there were no fatalities, the captain of the Clipper bringing her down three miles from the weather ship *Bibb*. After a long struggle in mountainous seas, all sixty-nine occupants of the *Bermuda Sky Queen* were taken to safety. The Clipper was then sunk by the *Bibb's* guns

THE "BERMUDA SKY QUEEN" RIDES THE WAVES: The Clipper seen from the weather ship *Bibb*. After making a masterly descent, Captain Charles Martin taxied to the *Bibb* and managed to position the *Bermuda Sky Queen* on the leeside while rescue work was in progress

"DARKNESS APPROACHING, PLANE LEAKING, PASSENGERS MOSTLY PROSTRATED BY SICKNESS": This was one of the messages from the *Bibb*. Two boats are seen round the *Bermuda Sky Queen* during a lull in the storm

A BOATLOAD REACHING SAFETY: The lifeboat approaching the *Bibb* after removing women and children from the *Bermuda Sky Queen*. A small life-raft was also used for rescue operations, and this was successful in saving three people when the lifeboat could not get near the Clipper

THE LIFEBOAT RETURNS TO THE WEATHER SHIP: The boat, containing rescuers and rescued, is hauled up to the deck. Only a very few passengers could be rescued at a time as the lifeboat was in imminent danger of capsizing

One of the most dramatic personal accounts of the mid-Atlantic rescues from the *Bermuda Sky Queen* was given by Mr. William Bostock, an oil company engineer, who was accompanied by his wife and three children and who was among the signatories of the document complaining against the overloading of the Clipper. Mr. Bostock declared that the rescue work was organised by merchant seamen aboard the *Bermuda Sky Queen*. Three of them got out the plane's raft and crossed in it to the weather ship *Bibb*. "Because I had the most and the youngest children they decided to take me off first," Mr. Bostock added. "The raft was brought to the nose of the plane right up to the escape hatch. I stood there with baby Sandra in my arms, and wearing a life-jacket. Baby had no life-jacket, but I knew I would hold on to her. The waves seemed like mountains as I stood perched there, scared stiff. One second the raft would be 5 ft. from me, the next more than 20 ft. away. I had to wait my time to jump. Passengers behind me watched anxiously, because they realised they would have to follow me if they wanted to stay alive. Finally I jumped, and made it."

ON THE MORNING OF THE SECOND DAY THE "BERMUDA SKY QUEEN" STILL KEEPS HER HEAD UP: With a nose battered in an initial collision with the *Bibb*, the Clipper continues to ride out the gale. At the door a passenger waits for the next rescue boat, and at the window of the cockpit is Captain Charles Martin, of Miami, the skipper of the *Bermuda Sky Queen*, who was the last to be rescued

THEY SEE THE "BERMUDA SKY QUEEN" GO TO THE BOTTOM: Ten of the rescued passengers from the Clipper standing on the deck of the weather ship *Bibb* as they watched their stricken flying-boat being sunk by gun-fire. On their faces is sketched clearly enough the tremendous drama of the moment

THE "BIBB" BRINGS HER SIXTY-NINE RESCUED INTO THE PORT OF BOSTON: The weather ship entering the harbour, where she received a great welcome. Tugs and motor-boats can be seen circling the *Bibb* as she waited to clear quarantine five miles from the quay. Overhead Coastguard planes swept and dipped in salute. A battered broom was strapped to the *Bibb's* mast as an indication that all was well. As soon as the *Bibb* docked scores of reporters, photographers and broadcasters rushed aboard

POINTING THE WAY TO SAFETY: The three men in this life-raft were passengers in the *Bermuda Sky Queen*. All three are seamen. They are demonstrating the safety of the raft to fellow passengers

A LAST LOOK AT THE STRICKEN CLIPPER: When the weather ship *Bibb* was about to sink the *Bermuda Sky Queen* she moved in towards her for this picture to be taken. A few minutes later the Clipper went down

THE "BERMUDA SKY QUEEN" GOES DOWN IN A BLAZE OF GUN-FIRE: These three pictures depict graphically how the Clipper was sunk by the "Bibb," following the dramatic rescue and in order to remove it as a menace to navigation. *Top*—Spray kicked up by shells hitting the water in front of the "Bermuda Sky Queen." *Centre*—The Clipper on fire, and (*bottom*) the final lurch before going under. It has since been disclosed that the "Bermuda Sky Queen" was heavily overloaded, and a declaration by the passengers formed the basis for the inquiry that was at once ordered

CHOIRBOYS REHEARSE FOR THE ROYAL WEDDING AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY—THE BOYS OF THE ABBEY SCHOOL WHO ARE BEING PREPARED FOR THEIR TASK ON NOVEMBER 20 BY DR. WILLIAM NEIL McKIE, ORGANIST AT THE ABBEY SINCE 1941 AND MASTER OF THE CHORISTERS: For the occasion the choir will be augmented by choristers from St. George's Chapel, Windsor. This is a tribute to the organist of St. George's, Dr. William Harris, who was responsible for much of Princess Elizabeth's musical training. Princess Elizabeth has herself chosen the music for the wedding. The opening hymn will be "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven," which is by the Rev. H. F. Lyte, author of "Abide With Me," the centenary of whose death falls on the wedding day. This hymn was sung also at the wedding of the King and Queen. Dr. William McKie has, in accordance with custom, specially composed for the occasion a motet, "Wait for the Loving-Kindness of God"

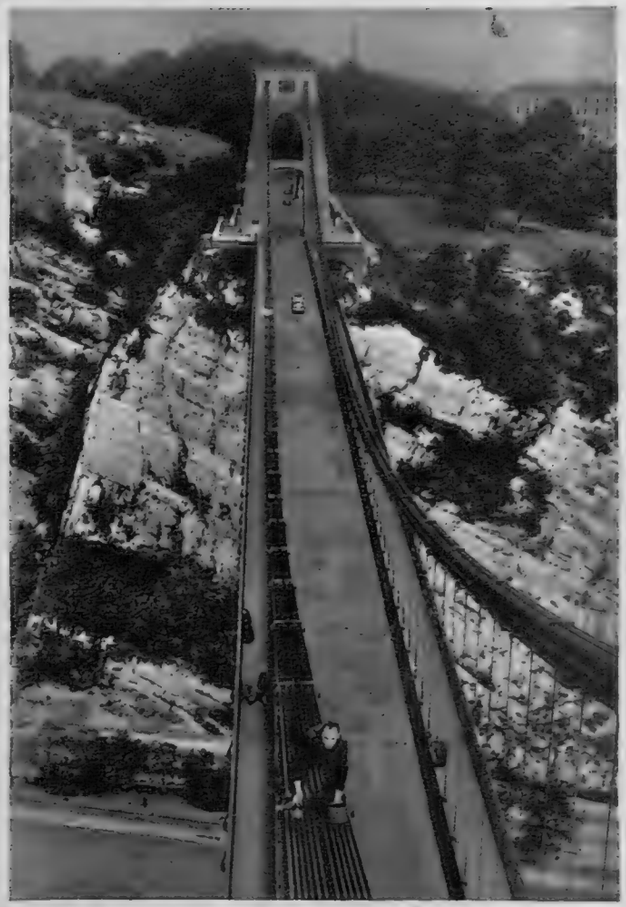
HOME NEWS IN PICTURES

PREPARING THE ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL IN GROSVENOR SQUARE: Stonework leading towards the plinth being placed in position. The stone has been cut at a Wandsworth stone-mason's, and surmounting the central plinth will be the statue of the great American President designed by Sir William Reid Dick

THE CROWN JEWELS ARE AGAIN ON VIEW AT THE TOWER OF LONDON: A queue outside the Wakefield Tower waiting to see the Regalia, now displayed for the first time for eight years. The jewels were removed to Windsor at the start of the war, and for the past two years they have been in the care of Garrard's, the Crown Jewellers, in Grafton Street. The famous collection is exactly as it was before the war except that a small diamond crown, which belonged to Queen Victoria, and was kept at Buckingham Palace, has been added. This has been done at the King's request. A day and night guard is now mounted over the Jewel House. On the right of this picture can be seen the new Wakefield Tower exit, enabling the public to circulate freely through the building. In pre-war days there was much congestion at the narrow entrance

THE PLINTH FOR THE ROOSEVELT STATUE: The stonework rising on its central position in Grosvenor Square. The statue is to be unveiled on April 12, 1948, which will be the third anniversary of Roosevelt's death. Lord Derby, the President of the Pilgrims, under whose auspices the fund was raised, has invited Mrs. Roosevelt to come to London to conduct the unveiling. The proposed statue by Sir William Reid Dick has the approval of the Royal Fine Arts Commission, and it is understood that work on it is now proceeding

TRAFALGAR HOUSE FOR SALE—A view of the east front of Trafalgar House, the home of the Nelson family since the Battle of Trafalgar. Lord Trafalgar has stated that the historic mansion will be coming on the market next spring "now that the Government have finally decided not to purchase it for a naval establishment": In a recent letter to the Press, Lord Trafalgar stated that since the Government decision to cease the Nelson pension on the death of the present Lord Nelson, his family are faced with a heavy burden of death duties, and they have no recourse but to accept the highest bid. Lord Strabolgi has urged that the house be preserved "as a memorial to our greatest admiral," and Lord Methuen has suggested that the National Trust be given the means of acquisition



KEEPING IT SHIPSHAPE AND BRISTOL FASHION: An unending task on Clifton Suspension Bridge above the Avon Gorge. For the past nine years Alfred Heal, of St. Westburgh's, Bristol, who is seen in the picture perched on a chain 360 ft. above the portway of the bridge, has spent every working day as a member of a team of painters keeping the structure in good repair: 4 tons of paint and 22 cwt. of tar are required annually for the task, and when the painters finally reach one end it is time to return to the other side and start all over again. The bridge was built by Brunel and was constructed of material from the old Hungerford Bridge

WITH BIBLE AND HYMN-BOOK UNDERNEATH HIS ARM: J. Arthur Rank leaving with boys and girls after his Sunday School class at the Methodist Church, Reigate. This is one of the lesser-known Rank organisations. Every Sunday the millionaire film magnate puts in an appearance at the Sunday School, and afterwards he drives some of the children home, girls one week and boys the next. Mr. Rank drives his own 10-h.p. Vauxhall

TWO LITTLE PIGS WENT TO MARKET: The ring attendant at Kirkwall market, in the Orkneys, holds up two young porkers for the inspection of buyers. This is the only market for the whole of the islands, so farmer friends are sure of meeting each other, and before the bidding is through, time and again find themselves in animated competition. The Orkneys provide good dairying country. About 700 gallons of milk are produced daily, and as there is no practical means of getting the surplus to the mainland towns of Scotland, a Ministry of Food factory has been set up at Kirkwall in order to make cheese. Many of the islanders reverted from stock-raising to dairying during the war, and they will probably retain their new interest now the factory has been established

A MONDAY-MORNING AUCTION IN THE ORKNEY ISLES: Buyers studying a draught-horse as the bidding proceeds in Kirkwall market. Farmers from throughout the islands gather at the ringside and prices tend to be high, for these are prosperous times in the Orkneys, and in these petrol-less days horses are invaluable

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PLANE FLIES INTO STORM-CLOUD ON A RAIN-MAKING MISSION: During the past year experiments have taken place in Britain, the United States, and Australia in dropping dry ice (solidified carbon-dioxide) into cloud with a view to creating rain over drought-stricken areas. In many cases the experiments have proved outstandingly successful. These three pictures were taken before, during, and after a recent experiment carried out by the United States Signal Corps near Washington, D.C. *Top*—The cloud formation before it was seeded with pellets of dry ice. *Centre*—The channel left by the seeding plane through which it would be possible for a plane to dive and thus avoid icing conditions. *Bottom*—The dark channel after forming into super-cooled moisture. The area involved in these pictures is about 50 square miles

CUTTING A SWATH THROUGH A CLOUD FORMATION AT 14,000 FT.: The channel running diagonally across this picture has been made by a plane seeding pellets of solidified carbon-dioxide (dry ice). The experiment has two purposes: that of rain-making in times of drought and that of clearing an area of sky for the safe descent and ascent of planes through ice-forming cloud formations. The gap is over a mile wide at its widest

FIVE GLASS MARBLES BEHAVE IN PECULIAR FASHION: Here they are recorded by the camera as they gathered in a cluster and remained suspended in mid-air above a siren giving out sounds set at too high a pitch for the human ear to hear. The experiment was conducted at the State College, Pennsylvania, where as many as twenty marbles have on occasion been similarly suspended. The ultrasonic sound-waves generated by the siren are said to contain enough heat to light a pipe

THE FACE OF THE MOTH WHICH HAROLD BOVEE CAUGHT: In the kitchen of his home at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Mr. Bovee swatted this giant moth, which turned out to have a 5-in. wing-spread. He was so surprised with his capture that he contacted the Press, and photographer Clarence Leino took this picture of the moth's fearsome countenance. This is by no means a record size for a moth, the Atlas moth of India having a wing-spread of 1 ft. To-day natural historians are finding that the old divisions between moth and butterfly do not hold good in the light of rapidly increasing knowledge

On right—**HELD BY WAX ON A PIN STUCK TO A CORK :** In this manner Henry M. Lester took a series of high-speed camera shots of a common house-fly during the experiments conducted by the American Museum of Natural History and the Sperry Gyroscope Company. The camera recorded the fly's wing-beat at a rate of 18,000 per minute, but the experts were much more interested in the workings of the fly's built-in gyroscope equipment

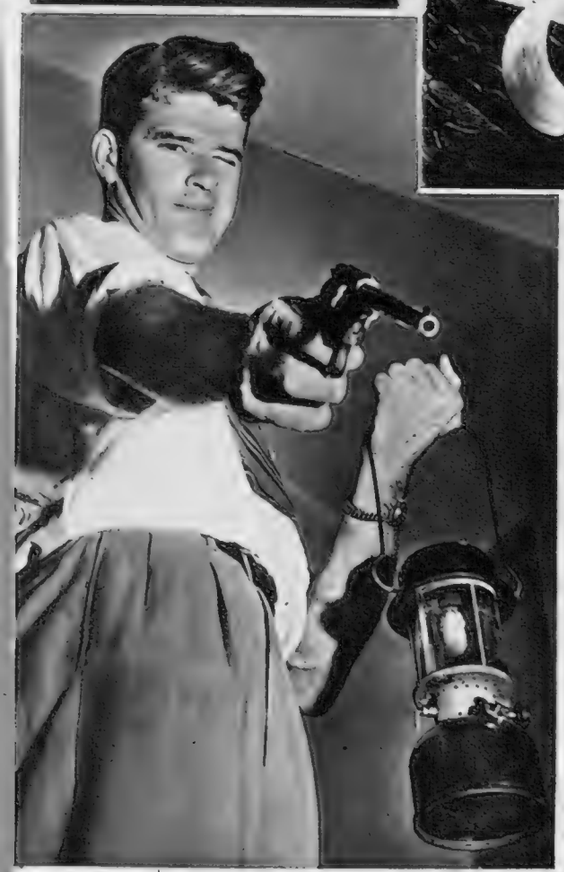
Below—**A SECRET OF CONTROLLED FLIGHT :** The arrow points to the built-in gyroscope which enables the common fly to pursue its business at speed. These halteres, or balancers, are derived from what were once hind wings. The fly's feet are padded and covered with very minute sucker-like hairs with which they can walk upside-down or ascend the glass of window-panes

A SECRET OF INSECT AVIATION : The arrow in this enlarged picture of a drone house-fly points to the fly's halteres, or balancers, which, acting in the manner of a gyroscope-cum-compass and vibrating at a rate of 300 vibrations a second, keep the fly steadily on its course even when it cannot see where it is going. The experiments were carried out by the American Museum of Natural History and the Sperry Gyroscope Co., of New York

The Camera Probes the Mysteries of Science

THE FLY AND ITS GYROSCOPE

—The Action of Dry Ice ; and the Bifocal Fish



WITH PISTOL AND LAMP HE HUNTS THE BIFOCAL FISH : Dr. Robert Miller, Assistant Curator of Fishes at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., with the lamp he uses to dazzle the Guatemalan Cuatro Ojo and the dust pistol he uses in order to stun it

THIS IS THE CUATRO OJO, THE FOUR-EYED GUATEMALAN FISH : The fish has two eyes at the top of its head, and these are divided into four half-eyes. A septum divides the eyes horizontally, the fish using the top half to see when it swims on the surface, while the lower half is used for submarine vision. The fish is only 7 ins. long, and Dr. Miller found the only way to capture this specimen was to dazzle it with his lamp and by firing a dust cartridge from his revolver

THE SPONGE-DIVERS OF TARPON SPRINGS

A Greek-controlled Industry in the Gulf of Mexico

THE SPONGE-FISHING FLEET AT ANCHOR IN THE HARBOUR OF TARPON SPRINGS: The fleet, now enjoying a post-war boom, is wholly operated by Greeks, 200 divers and their 176 boats making up the colony, which is capable of collecting annually sponges to the value of £600,000. Tarpon Springs is on the west coast of Florida, on the Gulf of Mexico, some miles north of the port of Tampa

The Tarpon Springs sponge-fishing industry is now over forty years old. It has only one prominent rival, the Mediterranean sponge industry, and both are very much in the hands of Greek enterprise. The Greeks at Tarpon, on Florida's west coast, have developed a really thriving industry, and the 176 boats that take part in the fishing all bring divers and crews a rich reward. A boat-owner who does his own diving can earn as much as £3,500 in a good year, and these are good years indeed, for the post-war demand for sponges far exceeds the supply and will continue to do so for a long while to come. The sponges are cured in the open air merely by exposure to the sun, and later they go through a processing plant before being offered to the buyers who congregate at Tarpon on behalf of the big wholesale houses. Cheaper varieties of sponge can be obtained by trawling, but at Tarpon Springs all the best results are produced by the divers, who now work all the year round. At one time they only went out in the summer season. Crewmen and divers earn regular incomes of £2,000 a year and over.

THE SPONGES ARE GRADED FOR SIZE AND QUALITY: Before being taken to the Sponge Exchange at Tarpon Springs, where the leading buyers congregate, the Greek workers sort out the latest catch. Divers are not permitted to bring up sponges which are less than 5 ins. in diameter

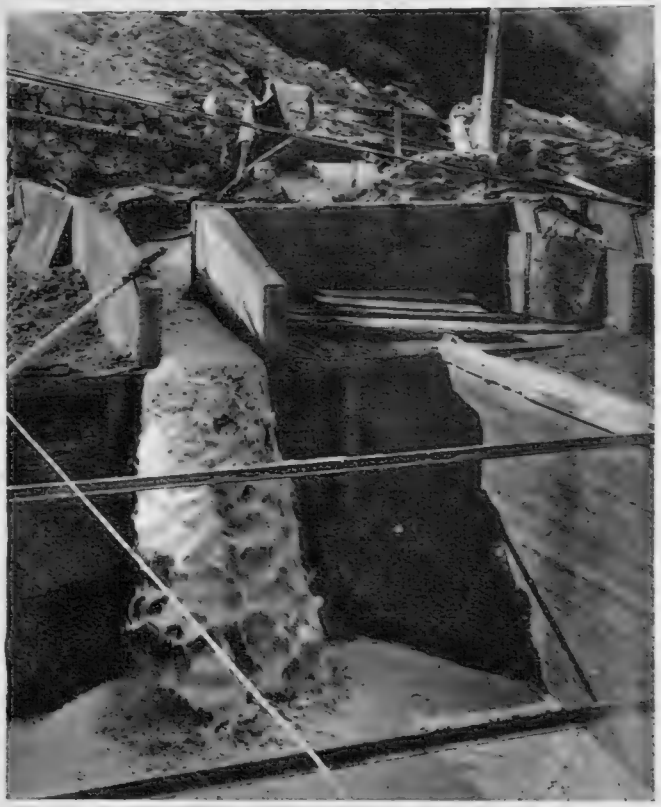
THE DIVER DESCENDS TO THE SPONGE GROUNDS: The Greek owner of the *Evdokia* superintends the descent of one of his men. The divers work eight hours a day in 2½-hour shifts, and the crews of the sponge boats share equally in the catch. Most of them have an income of £2,000 a year

HOOKING SPONGES 150 FT. BENEATH THE WATERS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO: These three pictures show the divers of Tarpon Springs in action. They wear specially designed suits permitting the greatest possible freedom of movement under water. The sponges are found in clusters on the bed of the Gulf, and they grow at the rate of only 1 in. a year. Every effort is made to conserve the beds to ensure continuity of grade and size

NINESTONE PIT: IN THE HEART OF THE CORNISH ALPS

Where the China Clay Industry Aids Britain's Exports

THEIR STINT IS STENT: Removing boulders and stones (known as stent) at the Lower Ninestone Pit, near St. Austell, a centre of Cornwall's china clay production. At work on the right is hoseman Jim Knight



THE STREAM OF LIQUID-BORNE CHINA CLAY ENTERS A SANDPIT: A scene at the Lower Ninestone Pit. The felspar passes into a soft pulverulent mass. When it has been thus kaolinised it is broken down and washed to get pure china clay

FROM THE HEIGHTS TO THE DEPTHS OF LOWER NINESTONE: A panoramic view of the great china clay workings near St. Austell, showing on the left and right of the central line the deep rifts made by the hosemen who wash the rough mixture of quartz and clay down the mountainside. The Lower Ninestone Pit was included in the schedule of the Royal visit to Cornwall and Devon

The Cornish china clay industry, on which has been built the prosperity of Britain's potteries and the universal appreciation of their fine wares, has an important centre at St. Austell, where the Lower Ninestone Pit is situated. China clay was first discovered in Cornwall by William Cookworthy in 1750, and the deposits have since been recognised as among the richest in the world. Lower Ninestone, to which the King and Queen arranged to pay a visit this week, has been worked for about 130 years, and at least one family—that of Samuel Nicholls, fifty-seven-year-old "captain" (or manager) of the pit—has been connected with it since the beginning. Many of the workers have spent their entire working lives at the pit. Not only does china clay constitute a valuable British export, both as a raw material and as finished porcelain, but it is also of importance in the preparation of drugs, cosmetics, paper, paint and rubber. Formed by the weathering of granite and other rocks, the clay is a hydrated aluminium silicate. The crude clay is freed by washing from quartz and other impurities, and it then appears as a soft, white greasy powder. The by-products of the clay preparation are useful in the manufacture of breeze blocks

On right—**WHERE THE CHINA CLAY IS PURIFIED:** A section of the Lower Ninestone workings at St. Austell, showing on the right one of the conical peaks forming the so-called Cornish Alps

THE ARMY MUST BE STREAMLINED

But the Chances of Promotion are Better Than in Pre-War Days

By CHARLES GRAVES

THE most inveterate Tory cannot possibly blame the present Government for the decision to reduce every infantry regiment to one regular battalion each. Nor will the new changes come as a surprise to the Regular Army. It was exactly a year ago that the Army Council announced its intention of altering the rigid old system of infantry regiments having one regular battalion always at home and one overseas; together with the decision to form fifteen groups of regiments with territorial or traditional connections. It was pointed out at the time that in these days of armoured and airborne divisions there would not be the need for so many regular battalions as before the war. Since then the Government has set up Pakistan and India, with the result that forty-five fewer battalions will be needed for garrison duties in India. In 1939 there were roles for 138 infantry battalions. If one removes the forty-five no longer needed for India, another five from Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Malta and Shanghai and another nine which have become battalions of the Parachute Regiment, the figure of seventy-seven is left. On top of that Burma has previously needed two battalions. If we leave Palestine that will further reduce the number of necessary infantry battalions by two. Egypt needed three. There are, in any event, ten Footguards battalions.

As I was told at the War Office this week, there has got to be a justification for the continuance of any given unit, both from the point of view of manpower and cost to the nation. Now that our imperial commitments are being streamlined, the Army must be streamlined too, bearing in mind that in the shape of wars to come the need for field gunners and infantrymen will be considerably less.

At first sight the news looks bad for both officers and other ranks of the Regular Army. In fact, however, they need have no anxiety about their future. It has not yet been decided between the Army Council and the colonels of the various regiments which of their two regular battalions is to disappear, and the implications of the reduction are still being studied. There are three possibilities: (*a*) disbandment of one of the two battalions; (*b*) amalgamation of the two battalions; (*c*) permanent suspended animation of one battalion. At this early stage it seems possible that different regiments may be allowed to choose their own course. In the meantime, it has been laid down that all regulars, both officers and men, who are surplus to requirements in any given infantry battalion will be absorbed in the Brigade (or group) to which their regiment is attached. Thus, a sergeant who is surplus to the South Wales Borderers would be absorbed by either the Royal Welch Fusiliers or the Welch Regiment. Another example would be of a captain in the Royal Irish Fusiliers being absorbed either by the Royal Ulster Rifles or the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. The same procedure would apply to a private in the Royal Scots who, if his regiment could not absorb him, would find himself in the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the King's Own Scottish Borderers or the Cameronians.

In this connection, it must be remembered that when this grouping was instituted the corps warrant was amended, with the result that the regular other rank is attested into the Brigade (or group) and not into the regiment when he enlists. Previously, the word "corps" in that connection was his regiment. To-day it means his Brigade (or group). In due course, as the new scheme gets going the man will spend his time not so much in one regiment as in the Brigade. Already there is some talk of having a special Brigade flash. It might even come to a point where there will be Brigade cap badges. What, of course, will happen to the black flash of a Royal Welch Fusilier, the cap badge of a soldier in the Gloucesters and the double strap to the Sam Browne of officers in the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry if the man or officer is transferred to another regiment remains to be seen and needs to be ironed out. One thing is certain. Colonels of regiments are finding more and more work to do, and a very good thing, too. Moreover, and apart from their regimental interests, one of each group is to be representative colonel of the Brigade. At the moment the percentage of Regular Army officers and men in different infantry battalions varies as much as from 80 per cent. to 25 per cent. In spite of this, all of them can be, and will be, absorbed even when regiments are reduced to one battalion. Quite apart from jobs in their own brigade, there is, of course, any amount of extra regimental employment. Moreover, if the One-Year Service Bill comes into being there will only be a limited number of stations where the National Service man can go—Germany and the Mediterranean apart from the United Kingdom. It would, evidently, be a waste of time to send a man who has only a year in the Army by a troopship which might take some weeks going in each direction. Certain stations, therefore, will be confined to nothing but regular troops.

Technically, of course, certain regiments will disappear altogether in spite of everything. The 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers is the old 87th, while the 2nd Battalion is the old 89th. Similarly, the 1st Battalion of the Royal Ulster Rifles is the old 83rd, and the 2nd Battalion is the old 86th. So unless they actually amalgamate, one of them will have to go. Some diehards might suggest that instead of continuing the nine battalions of the Parachute Regiment, existing line regiments should allow one of their regular battalions to become airborne—as, for example, the 1st Battalion of the Royal Ulster Rifles in World War II. The objection to this is that a National Service man cannot be drafted into an airborne unit, which consists entirely of volunteers. Besides, the Parachute Regiment claims that, young as it is, it has an *esprit de corps* second to none. It is by no means, of course, the first time that battalions have been disbanded or telescoped. As recently as 1922 five complete regiments—the Connaught Rangers, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the Royal Irish Regiment, the Leinsters and the Royal Munster Fusiliers—were automatically disbanded when the Irish Free State came into being. Before that, in the '80's, numbers of other battalions were either disbanded altogether, had their names changed, or used to reinforce existing units. Every effort has been made in the present changeover to maintain the close link between county regiments and counties, and the group system announced last year is to remain unchanged except that the Middlesex Regiment, which by itself formed a machine-gun group, is now being incorporated in the Home Counties group as a normal infantry regiment, because machine-gun battalions are no longer required in the Army.

The position of the old regimental depots which were attached to the primary training centres has not yet been finally settled. But each regiment will retain a small regimental headquarters, possibly located in county barracks. As for the selection procedure which determines a man's Arm of Service, this will now be carried out in a modified form before he is called up.

Officers, I repeat, need have no fears about their future. On the contrary, the percentage of regular officers who can expect to reach the rank of lieutenant-colonel or above is likely to be somewhat greater than it was previously, because (*a*) the present Regular establishment is slightly below the pre-war figure, and (*b*) there is a possibility that the permanent post-war strength will be somewhat higher. In other words, the brutal axeing of officers which took place just after World War I will not happen again.

Taking all in all, the Army Council has taken a very fair line. It had three possible courses: to disband certain regular battalions altogether, or place some of them permanently in suspended animation, or relegate some of them to temporary suspended animation. In considering these three possibilities it had to take into account the difficulty of assessing the relative seniority of many of the battalions of the line, the great fighting records of all of them, the loss of morale likely to result by abrupt disbanding, and the need to be able to raise or lower the number of battalions in existence from time to time. As things are, it is left to the colonels of the regiments themselves to solve their problem in conjunction with the Army Council. It will be most interesting to see what they do.

THE BEEFEATERS PARADE FOR THEIR PARLIAMENTARY CHECK-UP: The Yeomen of the Guard drawn up in line before their tour of the precincts of Westminster prior to the ceremonial opening of Parliament. This distinguished body is not to be confused with the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms which acts as "Nearest Guard to the King" at all State functions. Members of the Corps are shown in the picture below

THE "NEAREST GUARD TO THE KING": Members of His Majesty's Bodyguard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms lent a brilliant touch of colour to the scene at the State Opening of Parliament. The Corps was originated in 1509 by Henry VIII who, envying the magnificence of the bodyguard of Francis I of France, decided to have a noble guard of his own. They were at first designated the "Gentlemen Pensioners"

FOOTNOTES on the FOOTLIGHTS

Varied News from the Entertainment World

YEHUDI MENUHIN AND DIANA GOULD : The famous violinist was photographed with his fiancée when leaving the Royal Albert Hall after a concert. Diana Gould is the daughter of Lady Harcourt and stepdaughter of Vice-Admiral Sir Cecil Harcourt, Second-in-Command of the Mediterranean Fleet. She is an actress and a ballet dancer. Yehudi Menuhin's wife, who is the daughter of a wealthy Australian divorced him recently in Reno. She retained custody of their two children

THE ORCHESTRA OF THE BALLETS NÈGRES : They were seen together at a rehearsal in London just before setting out on a tour of Switzerland

"ARMOUR BY JERRY GERMAN" : An enterprising shopkeeper, who sells and hires out his metal-ware. In a small shop in London's Edgware Road, it is possible to buy suits of armour, pikes, halberds, blunderbusses and old duelling pistols. The business was started during the war, when the proprietor foresaw a demand for ancient armoury from souvenir-hunting American troops. Now his private customers are mostly from the United States and South America. But he does a steady trade with film companies who hire arms and armour for period pictures. He obtains much of his stock-in-trade from private-house sales and has paid as much as £2,000 for a suit of armour

DANCING—AFRICAN STYLE : Berto Pasuka (standing, left), director of the Ballets Nègres, rehearsing a scene in a new ballet. After the success of the Ballets Nègres last year, a society was formed to provide an organisation for the production and encouragement of Negro Ballet, Theatrical Art, Music and Drama, so that, unlike the Westernised theatre in Japan (as illustrated on the right), it can carry on the traditional native art with a permanent company. The Ballet Nègres Society has had the blessing of the Arts Council

DANCING—AMERICAN STYLE : The chorus of the Toho Morie Company dancing in a musical review, "Begin the Beguine," at the Nichigeki Theatre, Tokyo. American ways are sweeping Japan, and the theatre, which has to entertain American troops, has gone decidedly Western. The stars of this new show are Kazuo Hasegawa and Takako Irie. Hasegawa had never before performed anything but the traditional Japanese style of interpretative dancing, but he learned the rhumba and other dances for *Begin the Beguine*. Takako Irie, too, replaced kimono with Western ballroom dress

The World of Books—By VERNON FANE

SIR ARTHUR SALTER'S PEN PORTRAITS

A Series of Political Sketches, and an Almost Idolatrous Churchillian Tribute

SIR ARTHUR SALTER is one of those rare public men who, in their careers, combine eminence in more than one sphere. As a scholar he fairly glitters with academic achievement; as a Civil Servant his brilliance is recognised even in Whitehall, and as a politician he has been indispensable to his country in more than one crisis.

PERSONALITY IN POLITICS (Faber and Faber. 12s. 6d.) carries its theme in the title. The Marxists deny the influence of persons or personality upon the immutability of politics, and in this they are strangely supported by the academic historians. Yet, as man evolves, his political destiny seems more and more to be encompassed by "great men," and the absolute dictator did not perish in the Middle Ages.

In a series of personal portraits, Sir Arthur Salter not only limns the essential characteristics of his studies, but makes a convincing case for the effect of the impact of each of these individuals upon the history of our time. Balfour, Lloyd George, Ramsay MacDonald, Neville Chamberlain, Winston Churchill, Bryce, Haldane, H. G. Wells, Maynard Keynes, Woodrow Wilson, Roosevelt and Mussolini are all treated with perspicacious analysis. It is significant that the sketch of Balfour should be sub-titled "The Aristocrat," that of Lloyd George "Dynamic Imagination," and of Winston Churchill "Magnanimity." Of the latter, Sir Arthur says: "It is not easy for one who has served under Mr. Churchill—even in the humbler outskirts of his realm—to keep what he thinks and feels about him this side of idolatry. It must be for later writers to attempt a balanced appraisal of the greatest and richest personality of our time and country."

Of this week's fiction, Mary Dunstan's WINTER RHAPSODY (Heinemann. 8s. 6d.) is a well-constructed and very readable novel about the folly of jumping to conclusions. I see that the publishers call it a domestic comedy of Edwardian days, which is hardly accurate since it is laced with some sinister stimulus.

It all happens in Cornwall in one of those grand country houses which were still maintained in semi-feudal state even at the turn of the century. The Rayners were inseparable from their beloved Rollis, and the story begins with Alice, who is fifty and had been jilted by Michael Rayner after an engagement lasting a few days. Michael is long since dead, having been killed a year after his hasty marriage to an American beauty called Zoe, who never really fitted into the Rollis background.

It was Alice who jumped to the conclusions, only, after a series of well-contrived situations, to be proved wrong. Miss Dunstan not only has an excellent gift for the building of character and sustaining it through action, but she has a real feeling for the period and for her background. Elderly readers of *Winter Rhapsody* will, with some nostalgia, recognise this.

Mrs. Angela Thirkell's new book is engagingly named PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (Hamish Hamilton. 10s.), and it is a great deal more amusing than its two immediate predecessors, although it deals mainly with the same people and the same country district which contains the villages of Whiter Overcotes, Winter Underclose, and the hamlet of Little Misfit. Mrs. Thirkell's characters, as you may or may not know according to which reading camp you follow, are either County, accepted by the County or rejected by the County. Her sense of such values is exquisite, if inessential, and no silver-headed diplomat could have a more profound or subtle understanding of foreign relations than Mrs. Thirkell has of the relations between a Nanny and a head housemaid.

Detection is still detection, and clues, mysteries, and solutions can still follow an orthodox pattern even when under the guise of Military Intelligence. In his novels Mr. Michael Home has made a clear point of this, and his newest experiment of this kind is also his best. THE STRANGE PRISONER (Methuen. 8s. 6d.) has a clever central idea, in the story of a German in a Suffolk prisoner-of-war camp, whose identity is suspect, and whose behaviour and bearing suggest that he is either someone more important or more dangerous than his record ostensibly shows. This Nemling is a personable man, well-liked by his fellow prisoners and, in a curious way, respected by them, although he shows no arrogance and is far from being a bully. On the contrary, his manners are quiet and impeccable, and it is for this, among other reasons, that the Camp Commandant scents a mystery about him and calls in M.I. to see if they can solve it. So far, so good. The wheels of the military sleuths start to revolve, and the tension gradually builds up. The officers assigned to the investigation are both language experts, and speak French and German as easily as their mother tongue. This makes it possible for them not only to eavesdrop on Nemling in the camp but, when they have arranged his "escape," to follow him to France, where they hope he will lead them to possible accomplices. Mr. Home develops his plot ingeniously, and I would recommend the story with more enthusiasm if it were not for the author's regrettable habit of constantly building up to climaxes where only anti-climax waits.

THE FUTURE OF RUSKIN'S HOME: The Congregation of Oxford University last week reached no decision as to the future of Brantwood, the former home of John Ruskin, on Lake Coniston. The University accepted Brantwood three years ago with a view to maintaining it as a memorial to Ruskin and as a place of rest and recreation for senior members of the University. Because the cost of repairing and running the house has risen considerably, an application has been made to the High Court to determine whether the estate should be reconveyed to the donor, Mr. John Howard Whitehouse, or whether a revised scheme should be settled. "Brantwood is too remote from Oxford," say some of the critics. "To get there occupies one day," and it is feared that Brantwood might become a University white elephant. There, at the time of writing, the matter rests

The outstanding feature of Mr. Arthur Mills' DON'T TOUCH THE BODY (Collins. 8s. 6d.) is the author's understanding and, one would say, experience of farming. Although the setting of a remote Somerset farm during threshing time is not what you might expect in a murder story, it is, in fact, almost the best part of it. In fact, I can think of a few conscientiously rural authors who should look to their laurels—or their barley mows—with Mr. Mills on the scene.

For the rest, the story is one of a cheap little crook, Wally, and a nasty big crook, both of whom answer the same advertisement of rooms to let in a farmhouse. Wally is hiding out, knowing that he may be arrested for a murder he didn't do, and the other one is hiding out to escape arrest for fraudulent conversion. In the end Wally wins both vindication and the financier's girl-friend, and decides to open a country pub; a welcome and unusual ending in its way, since the story has no conventional hero and no stock characters. For which relief, much thanks.

Mr. W. R. Burnett is one of the founders of the American "tough" school, and his *Iron Man* is a classic of that type. Since then he has been turning out the same kind of book to order and ROMELLE (Heinemann. 8s. 6d.) is no better and no worse than its predecessors. This is about an unsuccessful night-club singer in California and her marriage to the degenerate scion of an old Southern family. Jules Ramond is a man of mystery, and gradually Romelle discovers that he goes out at nights to perpetrate deeds of violence. Mr. Burnett runs true to type, his writing is fluent but not beautiful.

GISSING AGAIN

A New Edition of "A Life's Morning," and Other Publications Briefly Reviewed

George Gissing died in 1903. To-day, owing to the exigencies of war and a certain measure of neglect, his rather joyless novels are hard to get, and the author is known to a diminishing circle of readers. Gissing's early experiences in Manchester preoccupied him with poverty and its brutalising effects on character, and, as a result, his series of proletarian novels seldom depart from this sombre theme; they are all concerned with the suffering of sensitive souls in sordid environment and with the struggle of London's poor against overwhelming misery. A LIFE'S MORNING (Home and Van Thal. 12s. 6d.) is not wholly typical of Gissing's work, and it has been chosen for this new edition largely because of its freedom from the unrelieved gloom of most of the novels. *A Life's Morning* is a story basically hackneyed and in the convention of its period—white-throated heroine, radiant hero and designing villain—but Wilfred Athel, the hero, has his weaknesses, Dagworthy, the villain, his better nature, and Emily Hood is no milk-and-water Miss; indeed, the intensity of her feelings is unusual and exciting. The story is open to the charge of being uneven, for Gissing is only really happy when portraying the "lower-incomed group"; the lively common Cartwright, for instance, whom he makes wonderfully true and natural. It must be admitted that he falters in his portrayal of the leisured Athel's, deriving, it may seem, his knowledge second-hand. Basically, however, *A Life's Morning* is a powerfully-written novel. The reader may approach it as a Victorian curiosity, but in that careful, often oddly formal style of his, Gissing has brought alive the vulgarity, the materialism and the social injustices of his late-Victorian days.

The tragedy of modern China presents at first glance no relieving feature. Here is a background as sombre as anything Gissing ever imagined. Insensate slaughter has gone on almost unchecked for more than seventeen years of civil war, and superimposed upon that internal strife were the seven or more years' struggle against the might of Japan. In CHINA AWAKE (Heinemann. 15s.) Robert Payne has fortunately been able to look beyond and above the current tragedy, the misery and poverty, and in this sequel to *Chungking Diary* he recounts his experiences in China from December 6, 1944, when the Japanese armies were crowding in upon the capital, to the end of the summer of 1946, when he returned to England. Mr. Payne does not side-step the tragic features of Chinese life, but he is more concerned with people than with politics, with the long-term Oriental view. He shows the Revolution that has taken place among the youth of the nation, "the massed desire of the people for peace and justice." It is all very heartening, and, having been thus lifted to the heights, it is all the more tragic to turn in the daily Press to the latest dispatches from the Northern Front, where Communist and Nationalist chieftains continue their reign of bloodshed.

Despite current shortages, Britain can still produce fine books. THE LONDONER'S ENGLAND (Avalon Press and William Collins. 25s.) provides a notable case in point. With descriptive text by Alan Bott, this is an album of contemporary water-colours and drawings of London and the Home Counties reproduced in colour and duochrome lithography. It is a first-rate anthology, with some of the outstanding artists of the day contributing.

W. Macqueen-Pope, who knows about as much of the London stage and the Edwardian stage, in particular, as any of his contemporaries, has in CARRIAGES AT ELEVEN (Hutchinson. 21s.) told the story of the London theatre from 1897 to 1914. For many it will awaken nostalgic memories, for others it will provide a clue to what their elders are talking about. As entertainment it is first-class value, but the anonymous author of the dust-jacket "blurb" might have spared us all the erroneous statement that the book takes us back to the days "when a golden sovereign was the standard of our lives, and when there was peace and security everywhere, and war was a thing unknown." Surely that little tussle with Kruger cropped up around the 1900's? It would take more than a piece of dust-jacket extravagance to spoil Mr. Macqueen-Pope's book, however, and he is to be congratulated on some very faithful and happy recording.

LAUGH WITH THE PIFFLES (Modern Art Gallery. 8s. 6d.) has drawings by Jack Bilbo and rhymes by Owo Bilbo. The Piffle Family, to whom we are introduced, have mighty long noses, but the book should have had a more abbreviated title.

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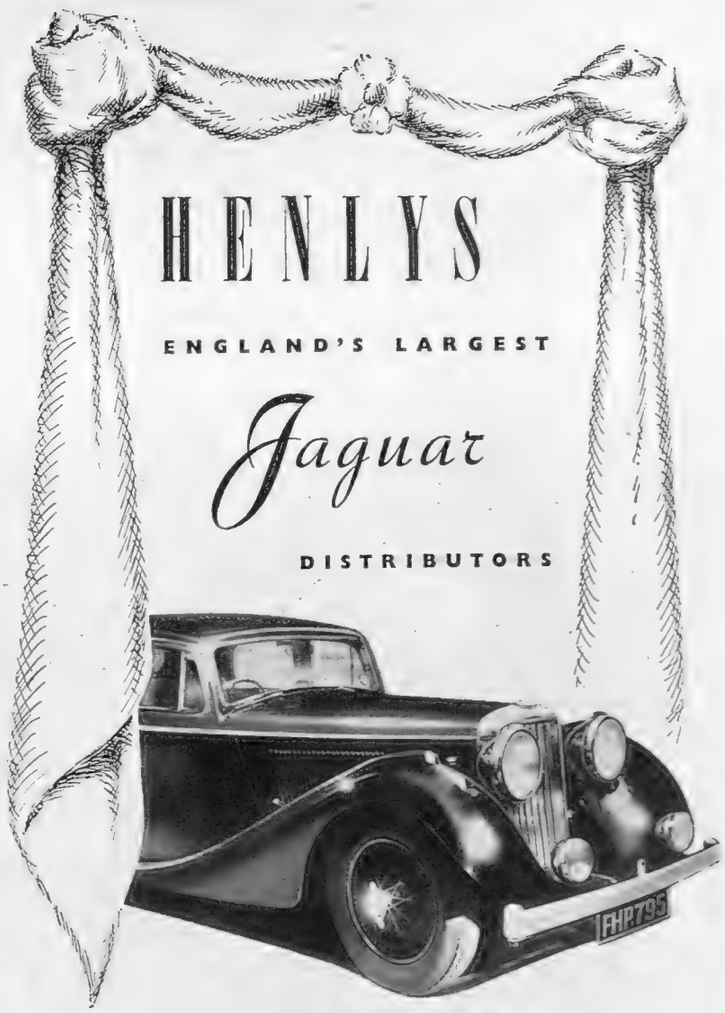

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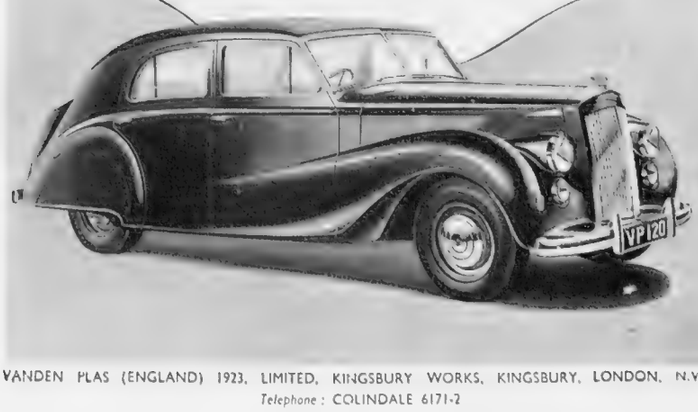

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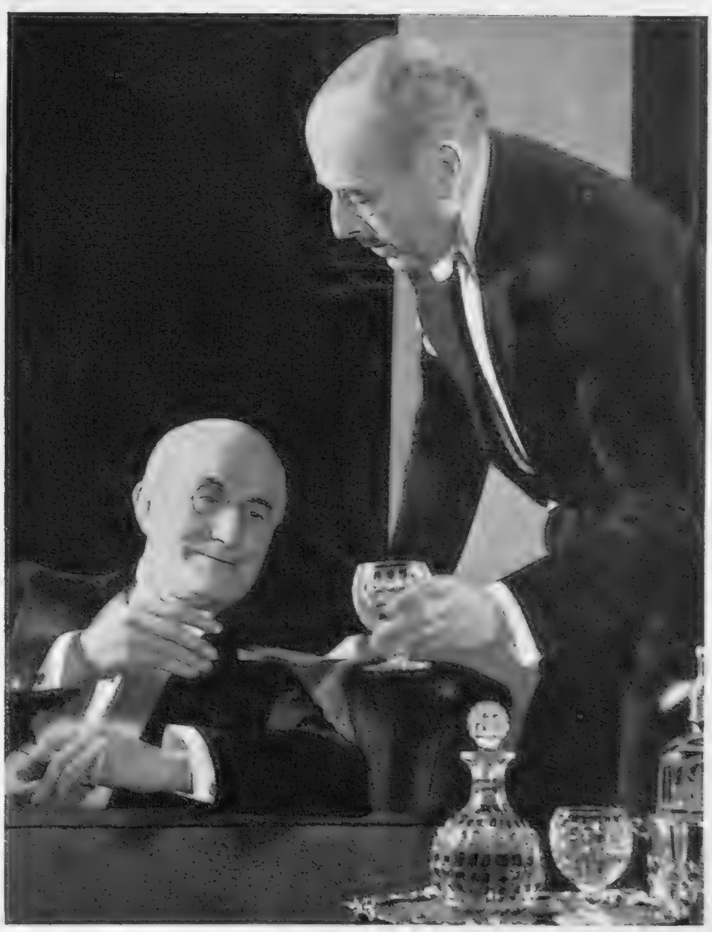

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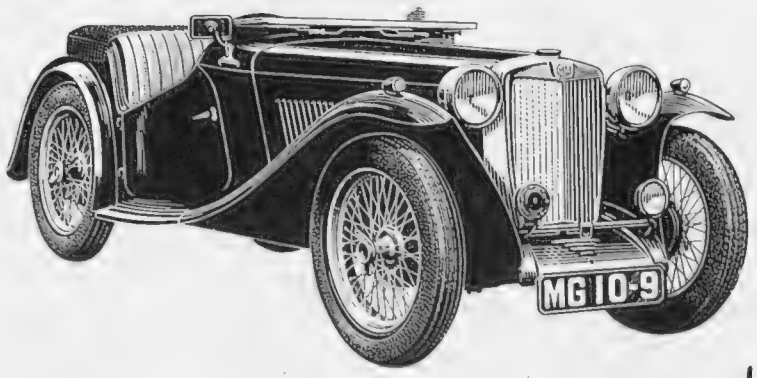

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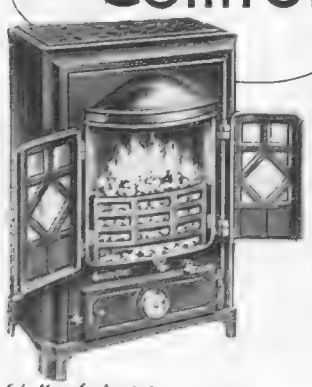

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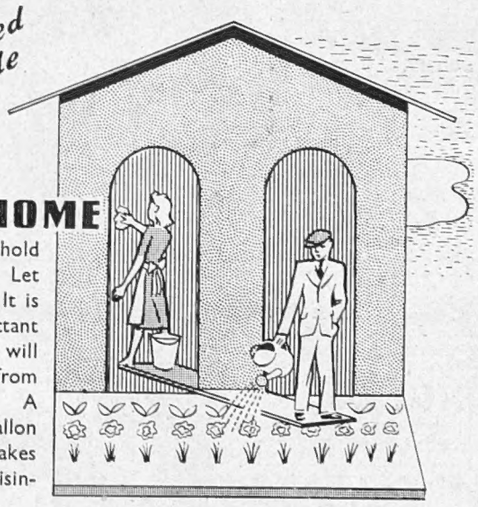

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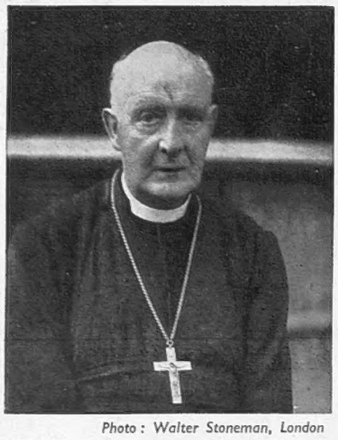

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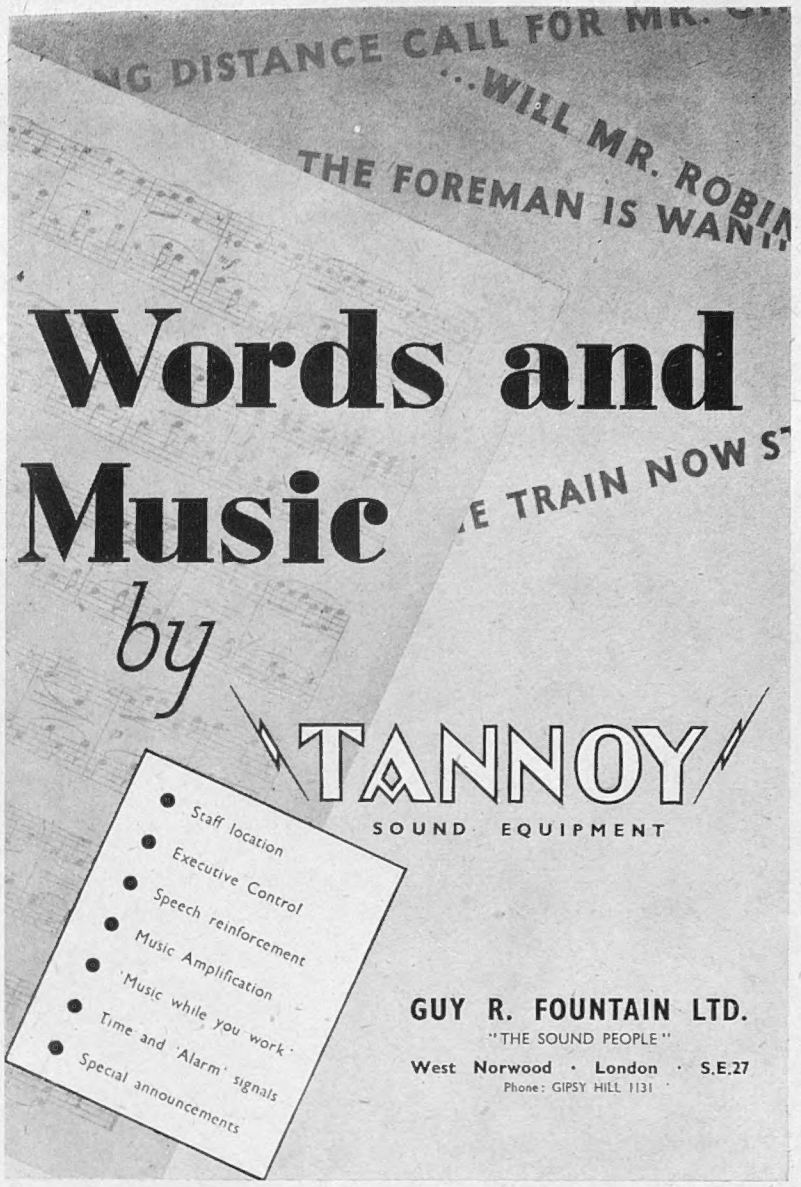

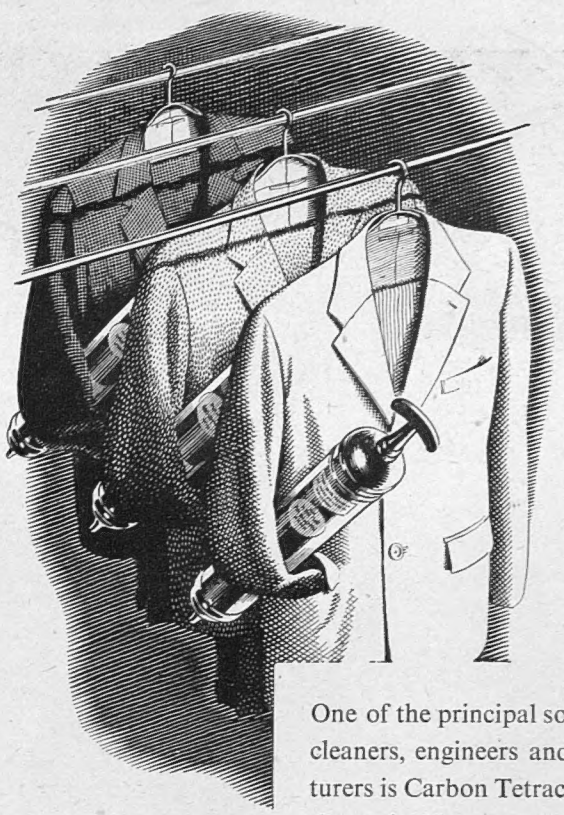

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